FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

2 AUGUST 1984

Hijacked French Airliner

The pilot of the hijacked French airliner has told officials at Tehran's Mehrabad Airport that the hijackers intend to blow up the aircraft because of the French Government's refusal to meet their demand for the release of five prisoners, IRNA announced on 2 August. The hijackers had earlier threatened to kill one passenger each hour if France failed to accept their demand, IRNA noted. An Iranian Foreign Ministry source cited by the agency warned that Iran will accept no responsibility if any "sad event" occurs at Mehrabad Airport. Meanwhile, 48 male passengers and crew remain trapped aboard the plane following the release of women and children by the hijackers, IRNA said. AFP disclosed that three Americans are among the hostages, and one of them holds a U.S. diplomatic passport, according to IRNA. In another development, Paris radio linked the unscheduled arrival of two French aircraft in Cyprus with the crisis of the hijacked airliner.

As for the identity and affiliation of the hijackers, IRNA cited reports that they are Arabic-speakers, possibly of Lebanese origin. One anonymous caller told AFP that the operation was on behalf of the "Islamic Guards," while another claimed responsibility on behalf of the "Indian branch of the Islamic Jihad" and said one of the hijackers is Pakistani. The five men whose release is demanded by the hijackers are Iranians jailed in France for an abortive attempt to assassinate former Iranian Prime Minister Shapur Bakhtiar in 1980, AFP noted. A statement released by the hijackers, however, signed "The Islamic Organization for the Liberation of Jerusalem," and carried by Tehran radio, states that the "French Government is bent on reviving past colonialist methods" and therefore, the aim of the hijacking is to "demonstrate our mettle to this criminal regime."

Lebanon

IDF helicopters attacked a "terrorist" camp in the Nahr al-Barid area northeast of Tripoli, the IDF spokesman announced in a statement reported by Jerusalem radio. The camp was used to prepare naval attacks, the spokesman said, and the raid was part of Israel's regular policy of hitting the "terrorists" wherever they are and sabotaging their organization. Israeli gunboats subsequently bombarded the area, which is held by fighters of Colonel Sa'id Musa Muragha's faction, according to the radio. While the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported that the Palestinians sustained several casualties in the helicopter attack, Beirut radio said only one person was wounded.

Following the events in the north, Israeli and Syrian forces exchanged artillery fire in the Al-Biqa' Valley, Voice of Lebanon radio reported.

Iranian Diplomacy

Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati described his visit to Turkey as a success and said that Iranian officials will "positively" consider Turkey's desire for greater mutual cooperation and increased trade exchanges, IRNA reported. Velayati had returned to Iran after holding talks with Prime Minister Turgut Ozal and President Kenan Evren in Ankara and Istanbul. According to Ankara radio, Velayati told reporters that Iran does not want any country or organization to mediate in the Iran-Iraq war and he also disclosed that his government is adopting a "serious" stance against Armenian terrorist attacks on Turkish diplomats in Iran.

Meanwhile, another Iranian envoy held talks with officials in Islamabad, telling the Pakistanis that Iran places priority on nonmilitary solutions to the Iran-Iraq conflict provided that these ensure that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn is "done away with," IRNA reported.

Soviet Diplomacy

Jordanian King Husayn received Soviet envoy Vladimir Polyakov, who presented the USSR's latest proposals for an international peace conference on the Middle East problem, Amman radio reported. The Soviet envoy will shortly visit Beirut, according to Beirut radio.

Egypt

Responding to the reports of explosions in the Gulf of Suez area, Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid declared that the Suez Canal is free of mines and that reports to the contrary are "unfounded," MENA noted. Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali confirmed that three explosions occurred in the Gulf of Suez, but emphasized that there were no such incidents in the Suez Canal, according to the agency.

Syria

President Hafiz al-Asad criticized PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in a *LE MONDE* interview broadcast by Damascus radio, asserting that 'Arafat has harmed both the Palestinian cause and Syria, which is the "springboard" of the Palestinian resistance. The resistance located far away from Palestine is "something else" and should be called by any other name except resistance, Al-Asad added. The president also castigated the United States for implementing "Israeli decisions" in its Middle East policy.

Palestinian Talks

The Fatah delegation, headed by PLO deputy military commander Khalil al-Wazir, began talks in Algiers with the leaders of the factions in the Democratic Alliance, including PFLP and DFLP Secretary Generals George Habash and Nayif Hawatimah, Baghdad Voice of PLO radio reported.

Tunisia

On the occasion of President Habib Bourguiba's birthday, Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali announced in a statement reported by Tunis radio that pardons have been given to 23 people and 2,952 others have had their sentences reduced by 3 months. AFP noted that 17 of those to be pardoned are leaders of the Islamic Tendency Movement who were arrested in August 1981.

Libya

The head of the Libyan press delegation to the Olympic Games, in an interview reported by JANA, denounced the U.S. refusal to allow his delegation to enter the United States as a preplanned "terrorist" action.

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Yasir 'Arafat Cables Congolese President

JN011742 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has urged the world community to move in order to immediately halt the Iraq-Iran war.

In a cable he sent to the Congolese president on the occasion of the conclusion of the ruling party's national conference, Abu 'Ammar said that this war threatens peace and security both in the Middle East and the world.

Thus, this war must be halted and all resources must be used to support the Palestine question.

Salah Khalaf Denies 'Arafat To Visit Libya

GF011644 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 31 Jul 84 P 1

['Amid ash-Shanti report]

[Text] Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, Fatah Central Committee member, has denied press reports which said that 'Arafat will visit Libya shortly. In a telephone conversation with *AL-QABAS* in Tunis, Abu Iyad said that there are contacts between Fatah and the Libyan Government.

However, the issue of a meeting between Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] and Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi is still in the balance. In the event of the talks being successful, a Fatah delegation will visit Tripoli. The Saudi paper *ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT* had reported that Abu 'Ammar is planning a sudden visit to the Libyan capital.

Abu Iyad continued: The recent Soviet initiative is a continuation of the initiative of late President Leonid Brezhnev. However, he pointed out that the new initiative contains more defined points, especially on the right of self-determination and the right of return, as well as repeating that the PLO is the legitimate and sole representative of the Palestinian people.

He described Palestinian-Soviet relations as extremely good and said that there is a complete understanding of the Palestinian stand by the Soviet leadership.

Abu Iyad stressed that a high-level delegation will visit Damascus soon within the framework of Syrian-Palestinian contacts and to complement the discussions which Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, held with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and other high-ranking officials on the restoration of relations to their previous level.

Abu Iyad stressed that the Algiers meetings — among the Fatah leadership and the leadership of the PFLP and the DFLP — will bear fruitful results aiming at uniting the resistance factions to fight the liberation battle.

Abu Iyad said that it is premature to talk about the 'Arafat-Habash-Hawatimah meeting at this stage and that it will be fixed according to the results of Algiers meeting.

PLO Delegation To Leave for Talks in Syria

GF020529 Doha QNA in Arabic 1945 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Excerpt] Tunis, 1 Aug (QNA) — The QNA correspondent in Tunis has learned that the PLO Executive Committee, which is currently meeting here under the chairmanship of Mr Yasir 'Arafat, has decided to dispatch a delegation to Syria.

This delegation will hold the contacts that were agreed upon during the recent meetings between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Mr Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department.

The means of eliminating the Syrian-Palestinian differences and normalizing relations between the two parties will be discussed.

The Executive Committee has already formed a delegation composed of Dr Ahmad Sudqi ad-Dajani; Hamid Abu Sittah; and Khalid al-Fahum, PNC chairman.

KUNA Interviews Al-Hasan on Palestinian Dialogue

LD011818 Kuwait KUNA in English 1700 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Excerpt] Tunis 1 Aug (KUNA) — The official in charge of information in the Palestine Liberation Organization and member of the Central Committee of Fatah movement, Khalid al-Hasan, confirmed here today that the expanded conference of the Palestinian dialogue will be held in Algiers within the next few days. Rumors had it that the preliminary meeting of the Palestinian dialogue which concluded its work in the Algerian capital yesterday evening was a failure.

Al-Hasan told KUNA "that the abovementioned preliminary meeting was 100 percent successful and that understanding between the Fatah movement delegation, which consisted of Khalil al-Wazir, Muhammad Ghunaym, and Hayil 'Abd al-Hamid; the delegation of the Popular Front led by its secretary general, Dr George Habash; the delegation of the Democratic Front led by its secretary general, Nayif Hawatimah; the delegation of the Palestinian Communist Party, led by the member of the Political Bureau, Sulayman an-Najjab; and the delegation of the Palestine Liberation Front led by its secretary general, Tal'at Ya'qub, was total in all aspects."

Al-Hasan refused to answer a question about the reason for suspending the work of the preliminary meeting and the return of George Habash and Nayif Hawatimah to Damascus, but he did say: "There are facts that will emerge within the next 2 days."

Meanwhile a high level Palestinian source told KUNA that Habash and Hawatimah returned to Damascus to seek from the Syrian authorities clarification about their true stance towards the statement recently issued by the "National Alliance" — which includes the As-Sa'iqah organization, the Popular Front-General Command, the opposition in the Fatah movement, and the Front of the People's Struggle — calling for the removal of Yasir 'Arafat as PLO chairman as a condition for the aforementioned alliance agreeing to reconciliation with the Fatah movement.

Commitment to Aden-Algiers Agreement Affirmed

JN011812 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] The Fatah movement, the PFLP, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], and the Palestinian Communist Party met in Algiers yesterday. Brother Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, headed the Fatah delegation, which was comprised of Fatah Central Committee members Brothers Abu Mahir [Muhammad Ghunaym] and Abu al-Hawl [Hayil 'Abd al-Hamid]. Dr George Habash, the PFLP secretary general, headed the PFLP delegation, which was comprised of Abu at-Tayyib, member of the PFLP Political Bureau. The DFLP delegation was represented by Brother Nayif Hawatimah, DFLP secretary general, and Brother Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, DFLP assistant secretary general. Brother Sulaymann an-Najjab, deputy secretary general of the Palestinian Communist Party, attended the meeting for the party.

During the meeting, the conferees discussed the developments that took place after the Aden agreement was signed, and the steps to be taken in order to support the PLO institutions.

This is in addition to what action must be taken on the various Palestinian, Arab, and international levels and the steps to strengthen national unity within the framework of the PLO and its revolutionary legitimacy. The conferees also discussed the need to arrange the preliminary steps required for holding the forthcoming PNC session and affirmed their commitment to the agreement reached in Aden and Algiers. They agreed to pursue consultations among themselves in order to follow up the steps that were taken.

Klibi Terms USSR Proposals 'Positive Approach'

JN011908 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] Tunis, 1 Aug (INA) — Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi has described the USSR's recent proposals concerning the Middle East crisis as a positive approach for solving this crisis.

He said that the proposals show profound understanding of the Palestine question and respect for UN resolutions. In a statement issued here today, Klibi said: We support these proposals in view of the increasing threat to Middle East peace posed by Israel's continued occupation of Arab territories and its refusal to acknowledge the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights, as well as the absence of any power that can deter Israel's recurrent aggressions. Klibi added that all plans that are not based on the UN framework and resolutions have failed as a basis for solving the Palestine question and that there is increasing international conviction that solving the crisis is linked to establishing a Palestinian state in the occupied Palestinian territories.

Klibi noted that the Soviet proposals are in line with the Arab peace plan that was approved in Fes. He said: Our conviction about the importance of the two superpowers' participation in the solution stems from our desire to achieve peace in the Middle East. We also believe that the participation of the Security Council member states will strengthen the efforts to achieve peace in the area.

Klibi concluded his statement by saying that the Arab League, which views just peace in the area as the objective of all of its efforts, will consider any proposals or initiatives that conform both to the essential principles and bases of peace and to the UN Charter.

Palestinian Group Claims Attack in Gaza

NC011834 (Clandestine) Palestinian Voice of National Unity in Arabic 1400 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] A military spokesman for the Al-'Asifah Forces' General Command — the Fatah uprising movement — has stated that it was responsible for the attack on a Zionist patrol in the Jabaliyah camp in the Gaza strip on Monday. The spokesman added that martyr Mahir al-Burnu's group, which carried out this attack, returned safely to base, after inflicting a number of casualties on the enemy.

More on Patrol Attack

JN011707 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] A group of our hero revolutionaries operating inside the occupied homeland attacked a Zionist military patrol in Jabaliyah Camp in Gaza the night before last. Using hand grenades in their attack, our revolutionaries killed or injured several Zionist soldiers.

A Zionist military spokesman admitted this operation, but, as usual, refrained from noting his losses. He said that the Israeli forces immediately waged a large search campaign in the camp and arrested a large number of Palestinian citizens on the pretext of looking for our hero revolutionaries, who returned to their bases safely.

AS-SIYASAH Reports on Conditions in OPEC

GF011540 Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 31 Jul 84 p 1

[By *AS-SIYASAH* oil correspondent]

[Text] There is no need for the convocation of an emergency meeting of OPEC. Reports disseminated by the international media on the breakup of OPEC are merely a traditional campaign inundated with exaggeration. This was the summary of the situation as seen by Kuwaiti oil sources.

Assessing the situation through "surveillance," the sources added that the issue of falling sales on the spot market is an exaggerated matter. Moreover, the spot sales market traditionally is volatile; this is neither the first time nor the last time that spot prices have fallen. Consequently, the exaggeration of this matter and implying that this means the collapse of OPEC is great exaggeration. This does not necessitate the convocation of any emergency ministerial conference.

On the position of a number of countries within and outside OPEC, these sources believe that there is no justification for Nigeria to withdraw from OPEC at a time when it got what it requested at the latest ministerial meeting concerning an increase in crude oil production. This also applies to Britain. It is not expected to reduce the price of its North Sea oil since there is no real benefit from such a step.

As for the decision of the Soviet Union to reduce the price of its oil by $1.50 as of tomorrow, Wednesday, this very source believes that this is not the first time that the Soviet Union has done this. It happened repeatedly in the past, dropping the price and then raising it. This action has no direct impact on the situation in OPEC.

BAHRAIN

Labor Ministry Denies Action Against Sri Lankans

GF020433 Manama GULF DAILY NEWS in English 2,3 Aug 84 p 1

[Text] The government has denied rumours that Bahrain's Sri Lankan community is under threat. It is widely believed among Sri Lankans in Bahrain that action is going to be taken against them following the setting-up of an Israeli interest section in the United States Embassy in Colombo. But no such decision had been taken, said a Labour Ministry spokesman.

"It is not true. There is no boycott on the recuitment of Sri Lankan labour," said Mr Ahmad Isma'il, labour relations supervisor. "Nothing official has been issued."

A spokesman for the Ministry of Information said that if any such decision were taken, it would be a Cabinet matter. It is believed that if it were to happen, it would affect only Sri Lankans coming into the country for the first time and not those who were here already.

The Israel Boycott Office said they did not know anything about the matter. "Many foreign governments have Israeli embassies. That's their decision. We aren't against other governments, just Israel," said a spokesman.

There is no Sri Lankan embassy in Bahrain. Visas for Sri Lankans are handed by the British Embassy, who said that they had not heard anything about the matter. Political matters are handled by the Sri Lankan Embassy in Kuwait.

The first secretary, Mr Fidosthi Poolongan, said: "The Gulf states have not taken any official action about this matter. We have not heard anything from them." He added that he was not sure why the rumour had started and that he was "not at all concerned" about it.

The Sri Lankan community in Bahrain has been "extremely worried" by the rumour, according to sources. One housemaid said: "Everybody tells the same story — that we are going to be thrown out. The entire community is very concerned.

They believe that the entry of Sri Lankans into Saudi Arabia is also to be restricted. A spokesman for the Ministry of Information in Riyadh said: "To my knowledge it isn't true."

Prime Minister Returns From Europe Visit

GF011858 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1815 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Excerpt] Manama, 1 Aug (WAKH) — His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al-Khalifah, Bahraini prime minister, arrived in Manama this evening after a private visit to Europe.

KUWAIT

Foreign Minister Departs for Tripoli Meeting

LD020802 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0728 GMT 2 Aug 84

[Text] Kuwait, 2 Aug (KUNA) — Deputy Prime Minister, Foreign, and Information Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir departed around 1000 for Tripoli, Libya to take part in meetings of the Afro-Arab Cooperation Committee, which are expected to begin this evening.

In a statement to reporters before his departure, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, said that he is carrying a reply message from Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah to Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. He also said that he will take part in the meetings called for by Libya of the Afro-Arab Cooperation Committee, due to begin its work this evening, because as Kuwait has the conviction that strengthening relations between Arabs and Africans is inevitably beneficial to all.

It is to be recalled that the Afro-Arab Cooperation Committee consists of 24 countries: 12 Arab and 12 African.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said that past Arab mistakes have led to the break of dialogue and understanding with the Africans. This, he added, has led some African countries to deviate from African unanimity, as Zaire and Liberia have done. However, he expressed his hope that the Tripoli meeting will be capable of putting an end to the few African countries' abnormal behavior.

QATAR

Amir Receives French President's Message

GF021012 Doha QNA in Arabic 0933 GMT 2 Aug 84

[Text] Doha, 2 Aug (QNA) — Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani has received a written message from French President Francois Mitterrand on bilateral relations and the means to bolster them in all fields and on the current situation in the Gulf and Middle East regions. The message was delivered by French Ambassador to Qatar Henri Piot during his meeting with the Qatari amir today.

SAUDI ARABIA

USSR Initiative Called 'Positive Factor'

LD011454 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 1 Aug 84

[News analysis by Abdallah Sulayman Khurayis]

[Text] Last Sunday, the Soviet Union called for holding an international conference on the Middle East in which all the concerned parties would participate, including the PLO. This comes as a new attempt to reach a comprehensive and just settlement for the crisis in the region which will guarantee a permanent peace.

In the proposals, Moscow expressed the belief that this conference it has been calling for, for 3 years, could commence at the foreign minister level, then continue at the level of permanent representatives. When necessary, the ministers could participate periodically in the work of the conference.

Still, no one expects much to result from such a conference, if the outcome is similar to that of the previous conferences: mostly mere resolutions confronted at the last moment with the Israeli rejection which spells their end.

Nevertheless, just holding the conference and the unanimity of the conferees on what could be as good as guaranteed from the begining, which is the consecration of the Palestinian Arab right and confirming the urgent need for giving the Palestinian people their right to self-determination and a return to their homeland to end the everlasting conflict in this region of the world — this itself represents a positive factor in the record of the Arab issue. It will remove some of the dust which Zionism tries to throw over this issue to push it into the hole of gradual forgetfulness. It will also give the issue new support, confirming the justice of the Arab position which Israel tried in every way to deform and misrepresent during the past period.

In addition to these features, it gives the issue a new momentum which will be an element of pressure on the international community as a whole to shoulder their moral responsibilities towards this situation.

The United States is one of the two superpowers which, according to the proposals, will be invited to participate in the conference which would be held under UN supervision. But Washington has rejected this invitation. A spokesman for the U.S. State Department said that the United States cannot see how the participation of the Soviets in such a conference could be a beneficial factor.

In occupied Palestine, as expected, Israel rejected the idea of the conference. One of Israel's senior officials said that the proposals are not sincere. According to observers, however, this Israeli rejection does not constitute an obstacle important enough to stop the holding or the success of the conference, because the Zionist position, whether Israel participates in the conference or not, toward every effort or attempt to achieve a just peace in the Middle East is already known.

On the other hand, the Soviet proposals were met by support from many international sides and circles. Britain announced that it does not oppose holding an international conference for solving the Middle East crisis if the conference will contribute to achieving peace. Britain said that its aim, at the current moment, is to prepare the grounds for a dialogue.

In Paris an official spokesman for the Ministry of External Relations explained that France is currently studying the Soviet proposals concerning the holding of this international conference. Although the spokesman did not mention any other details, he pointed out that on previous occasions France has expressed its wish for any conference on this issue with the two superpowers, because France thinks that such a conference will contribute to finding solutions for the conflicts related to the Middle East crisis. The PLO, one of the concerned parties whose participation is required in the suggested conference, announced in a statement, after its meeting yesterday that it approves of the Soviet proposals. The PLO assessed what was included in these proposals regarding the principle of the firm right of the Palestinian people to return, enjoy self-determination, and establish their independent state on the Palestinian soil, and the right of that country, after its establishment, to determine the nature of its foreign relations.

However, observers consider that the most important result which could emerge from such a conferences, previously called for also by the UN General Assembly, is the conviction of the countries with direct influence on events, that the problems of the Middle East region, whose security is closely tied to world security and stability, have reached a stage at which they should end. With this conviction any sincere efforts aimed at ending this conflict defintely have an immense effect on the region's events.

UAE

Fire Reports on Kuwaiti Airliner Denied

GF011922 Manama WAKH in English 1630 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] Dubai, 1 Aug (WAKH) — There was no fire aboard the Kuwaiti Airways Boeing 747 which was forced to stop on the airway of Dubai Airport before taking off for Kuwait this morning, an official source at the Dubai International Airport reported. In a statement to Emirates News Agency (WAM), the official said all the 231 passengers aboard the jumbo [jet] were safe. The official added that some of them were treated for slight injuries caused by crowding at the airliners emergency exits.

An alarm signal at the cockpit before take-off indicated of a fire in cargo stores four and five, forcing the captain to abandon and take off, the source said. The emergency exits were opened while the airliner was on the runway and the passengers were evacuated.

The source added that the plane was unloaded and examined by civil aviation experts and the police. A technical committee will arrive here from the Kuwait Airways main office to examine the airliner which was heading for Kuwait from Bombay. The source said the passengers were moved to another Kuwaiti airliner which arrived at 4.30 p.m. and expected to leave for Kuwait at 5.30 p.m.

Meanwhile, director of the Kuwait Airways land station at the Dubai Airport, Mahdi 'Ali, said that the emergency exits were opened for passengers on an emergency alarm aboard the aeroplane. "The alarm was started after suspicions of a possible fire due to sound and smoke emerging from the air pressure pipe," he said.

'Ali stressed that the technical engineer of Kuwait Airways who examined the airliner reported there was no fire and no damage to the plane. In Kuwait, director general of the Kuwait Airways, Ahmad al-Zibn, firmly denied claims that an explosion occured within the airliners cargo hold. The incident was due to the explosion in the pressure pipe of the airliner's air conditioner, al-Zibn said.

PDRY

Foreign Minister Receives Soviet Proposals

GF011450 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] Brother Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz ad-Dali, member of the Political Bureau and foreign minister, received this morning Comrade (Aleksov), Soviet charge d'affaires in Aden, who conveyed to the brother minister the text of the Soviet proposals on the settlement of the Palestinian and the Middle East issues.

Ministry Statement on Proposals

GF011452 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text of statement issued by the PDRY Foreign Ministry on the Soviet proposals for the settlement of the Middle East crisis — date not given]

[Text] The PDRY Government has reviewed the Soviet proposals regarding the Palestinian people and the Middle East. The PDRY believes that these proposals are a good basis for achieving a just and comprehensive peace, preserving the firm and national rights of the Palestinian people, and liberating occupied Arab territories, including Arab Jerusalem.

The PDRY considers these proposals as a confirmation and continuation of loyal Soviet efforts in supporting our just Arab issues and in particular the Palestinian cause.

YAR

Soviet Call for International Conference Welcomed

GF012100 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] An official source stated the following to the SABA' NEWS AGENCY: The YAR Government has welcomed the call which was made by the Soviet Union on 29 July to hold an international conference for peace in the Middle East. The YAR Government agrees with the peaceful goals of that call and it affirms the collective Arab attention [word indistinct] the resolutions of the 12th Arab summit in Fes and regards the Soviet call contributes to achieving peace by its adherence to the principle of the Palestinian people's right in self-determination and establishment of its independent state on its soil under the leadership of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and the restoration of the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem.

This call came in light of the current tension in the region as a result of the Zionist occupation of the Arab territories and the hostile (?policy) which the Zionist government is adopting.

The YAR Government hopes that the permanent member countries of the UN Security Council realize their responsibility to contribute to ending the Zionist occupation and its expansionist conspiracies in the Arab territories and in achieving a just and permanent peace which secures the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and restores the occupied Arab territories.

'Ali: Explosions in Gulf of Suez, Not Canal

NC011224 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1125 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] Cairo, 1 Aug (MENA) — Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has stated that no explosions have taken place in the Suez Canal. He said that three explosions occurred in the Gulf of Suez and not in the canal area. 'Ali was answering newsmen's questions today on reports on explosions in the Suez Canal. 'Ali said that approximately 150 vessels traverse the Suez Canal daily without any incident. He said that investigations continue into the three explosions in the Gulf area to ascertain the causes of the explosions, which did not result in any losses. He affirmed that total safety is ensured for navigation in the Suez Canal.

Prime Minister Views Impact of Restored USSR Ties

PM011423 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 27 Jul 84 p 3,15

[Interview with Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali by Sana' as-Sa'id in Cairo E— date not given]

[Excerpts] Question: Following the resumption of relations between Egypt and the Soviet Union, what situation would you visualize for once again depending on the Soviet Union as a main source of armaments?

Answer: I would like to stress here that the United States is the principal source of armaments as far as Egypt is concerned. The return of the two ambassadors to Cairo and Moscow will not change this reality. In fact, we are seeking to diversify our sources of armament from various Western countries. As we all know, the United States gives Egypt a $1.1-billion grant to purchase arms from it. Moreover, this is a strategic line.

Question: Can you visualize likely future events in the light of the sudden improvement of relations with the Soviets? Could the natural reaction not be a sudden collapse in Egyptian-U.S. relations, if not on your part then on the part of the United States itself?

Answer: Egyptian-U.S. relations are based on mutual respect and the free will of both countries in dealing with one another. I certainly do not think that our relations with the United States, with all that they involve, could be affected by the restoration of normal Egyptian-Soviet relations or by the exchange of ambassadors between the Soviet Union and us, particularly since relations have existed between us and the embassies have existed all the time. The exchange of ambassadors is something very natural. I certainly do not think that the United States takes such a view.

Question: The restoration of normal relations with the Soviet Union gives it greater advantage for realizing its aspiration to play a greater role in the area and enhance its influence, which you have appeared to oppose strongly.

Answer: The Soviets are in the area in any case through their close ties with Syria, Libya and Iraq, which it supplies with arms. So the Soviets have never been absent from the area. It was only their relations with the biggest country in the Middle East, Egypt, that were not normal. But now they are normal, and that is all that has happened.

Question: But the restoration of normal relations between you and the Soviet Union could enable the Soviet Union to play a bigger role in the area.

Answer: I do not think that the restoration of normal relations with Egypt will boost the role the Soviet Union can play in the Middle East problem as long as there are other parties that refuse the Soviet Union a role.

Question: Does not the sudden improvement of relations with the Soviet Union automatically mean coolness in your relations with Israel, particularly since the Soviet Union is the giant opposed to the United States, Israel's ally in the area?

Answer: Relations between Egypt and Israel are affected not by the improvement of relations between the Soviet Union and us but rather by Israel's actions contrary to the letter and spirit of Camp David as well as by Israel's activities in the area in violation of international laws and covenants. It was the invasion of Lebanon that radically affected Egyptian-Israeli relations. Relations between the Soviet Union and us are a matter concerning us alone and do not reflect on our relations with any other country.

Kuwait's AS-SIYASAH Interviews Butrus Ghali

GF012000 Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 31 Jul 84 p 18

[Interview with Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, by Husayn at-Tantawi in Cairo — no date given]

[Excerpts] [At-Tantawi] Egypt has recently taken a significant step with the return of the Egyptian and Soviet ambassadors to their positions in the two capitals. What are the dimensions of this return on Egypt's current policy toward the two superpowers?

[Ghali] It was announced in Cairo and Moscow on 7 July 1984 that the governments of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Soviet Union have agreed on the return of the two countries' ambassadors so that they may carry out their duties in the two countries' capitals. It can be said that this announcement came as a culmination of the phase which began more than 2 years ago, during which the Egyptian and the Soviet sides succeeded in overcoming the crisis of confidence which occurred in their relations during a phase, the beginning of which goes back to 1972, following the decision to expel Soviet experts.

Egyptian diplomacy has never put any restriction or precondition on improving relations with the Soviet Union, other than its insistence on the importance of mutual respect and noninterference in the internal affairs of either side. Moreover, its assertion that improvement of relations between the two countries can bring progress in a number of areas which should precede the return of the ambassadors, such as the desire to expand trade and economic relations between Cairo and Moscow and between Cairo and socialist European countries. This serves the mutual interests of the two sides and further opens the door for

exchanging visits between the two countries to expand dialogue between them.

Egyptian-Soviet relations witnessed gradual development during the past 3 years. Moscow responded to Cairo's demand regarding its commitments to return some of the Soviet experts, and actually, 66 experts arrived to implement the guaranteed contracts which deal with Soviet factories bought by Egypt. Also, positive progress has been achieved regarding economic relations between the two sides after an economic and trade delegation led by the Soviet deputy minister of foreign trade arrived in Cairo in November 1983 and a trade protocol was signed which increased the amount of exchange between the two countries by 25 percent so that it now totals 500 million pounds sterling.

Regarding the media level, the Soviet media organs have adhered to the tone which expressed the desire for exceeding the previous stand. Also, contacts were held between Mr Mamduh Salim and Ambassador ash-Shafi'i 'Abd al-Hamid, and Vasiliy Kuznetsov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet Presidium, during the Egyptian delegation's participation in the funeral ceremonies of deceased Soviet President Andropov. Also, Vladimir Polyakov, director of the Near East Department at the Soviet Foreign Ministry and former Soviet ambassador in Cairo, visited Egypt in February 1984. During this visit contacts were held between him and a number of Egyptian officials, including myself.

In light of all these steps, Egypt took a political decision to exchange ambassadors between Cairo and Moscow and the appropriate timing for its announcement was awaited. Based upon this, I do not intend to exaggerate the importance of the return of the ambassadors to Cairo and Moscow, because relations between the two countries already existed and were developing positively according to the past phase and according to the assessment of what is taking place now, and because the return is a mere raising of the representation level from the protocol side of relations which have been developed between the two countries so that they can become natural on all sides.

No doubt the change in Egyptian-Soviet relations to total normalization is a mere practical application of the nonaligned policy, which Egypt believes in because Egypt is a member of the nonaligned, the real identity of its foreign policy. If the Nonaligned Movement suffered in the recent past from many difficulties which lost a great amount of its effectiveness and independence, Egypt's return is the practical application of this policy which will help in strengthening the movement and restoring its purity. Also, Egypt can adopt a positive stand toward the cold war begun again in the international atmosphere and which might escalate international tension currently prevailing in the world through its role within the framework of the Nonaligned Movement. Egypt's commitment to the nonaligned policy stems from its belief that it is the appropriate way to achieve international peace and to reduce international tension between the two superpowers.

[At-Tantawi] Do you expect the return of the Egyptian ambassador to Moscow will affect the size of U.S. financial and technical aid to Egypt?

[Ghali] We do not expect the return of the Egyptian ambasssador to Moscow will have any effect on the size of the U.S. financial and technical aid to Egypt because we believe that the United States undertands well that if Egypt had strong relations with it then these relations should not be affected by normal Egyptian relations with all other parties.

Egypt's leadership in the Arab world forces it to always have balanced relations with the superpowers. The Arab world has suffered a great deal from the dangers of polarization which have weakened its forces. The United States knows that for Egypt to play its role in the region, it must have relations with Moscow, without these relations being antagonistic to Washington.

Lastly, what serves the U.S.-Egyptian relations in an objective way is the complete response from Washington to the reasons based on the national decision and to the requirements of the national wish inside Egypt. We are certain that the United States is aware of this fact and will act accordingly.

[At-Tantawi] Did the recent political events in the Arab arena indicate that Egypt will soon be admitted to the Arab League? What is the nature of the Egyptian contacts with some Arab countries? Will these contacts lead to the resumption of diplomatic relations with these countries?

[Ghali] Egypt is always keen to affirm — even under negative conditions — its Arab affiliation. It is a fated affiliation which cannot be shaken by temporary conditions and emergency emotions. While being boycotted by the Arab brothers who react emotionally, Egypt remained a material presence which influenced every Arab country. It continued carrying out its duties and making its contributions without hesitation. The sons of Egypt are everywhere in the Arab world, educating, building, and helping development and progress in various fields. Regarding the political arena, Egypt always maintains contacts with Arab brothers in one way or the other. These contacts have never been broken.

Egypt will always remained the beating heart of the Arab world after recent developments, whether in the Lebanese or the Palestinian arena. Egypt is always trying its best — under the miserable conditions of Arab disintegration, the comprehensive Arab inability and total lack of will — to stop the collapse and the retardation of the Arab stand.

The return of Egypt to the Arab League or to raise the diplomatic relations between Egypt and the Arab countries to ambassadorial level is, by recent analysis, more probable, but it is a matter which will require implementation of tangible steps toward the normalization of Arab-Egyptian relations. To achieve this normalization, the difficulties facing Egypt in returning to the Arab League must be overcome. It must be frankly said that the difficulties facing Arab-Egyptian reconcilation are no longer confined to Cairo's already-announced adherence to the agreement with Israel which Cairo will never retreat from but also include difficulties among Arabs and issues relating to the superpowers' presence in the Arab world.

Are the Arab countries capable of rising above what they could have achieved in terms of interests, positions, and roles, for the

sake of the general Arab interest which will certainly be achieved by the return of Egypt to its effective full role in the Arab arena?

Can the Arabs pause to consider retrospectively and consciously the dimensions of the historic responsibility, appreciating the seriousness of the current situations which will affect the future of the Arab nation? The frank answers to these questions are in themselves answers to your question.

[At-Tantawi] It is said that there are a number of envoys being exchanged between Egypt and Libya on the one hand, and between Egypt and Syria on the other, and that these contacts will lead to a rapprochement.

How true is this news and what are the dimensions of the current Egyptian relations with Libya and Syria following the improvement in relations between Egypt and the Soviet Union?

[Ghali] First of all, I would like to point out that there is no relationship between the improvement of Egyptian-Soviet relations and the possibilities of improvement in relations between Cairo and either Tripoli and Damascus.

These latter relations are Arab-Arab and are formed within atmospheres and dimensions totally different in their nature, backgrounds, and intricacies from the relations of Egypt with any foreign country.

On the subject of the exchange of envoys between Egypt and Libya and between Egypt and Syria, this is not true. If envoys or visits are exchanged, they will be proclaimed, as there would be no reason for hidng such contacts or wrapping them with secrecy.

I would like to add that the lack of contacts between Egypt and Libya or Syria at present does not rule out future contacts. There have been many differences between the regimes in Egypt and the regimes in various Arab countries, and they have been resolved afterward. As far as this issue is concerned, the future is no different from the past.

'Abd al-Majid Calls for Arab 'Cohesion'

NC011851 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid has called on the Arab states to marshal their ranks to achieve cohesion in the Arab nation, and not to depend on other parties to achieve the Arab demands.

He also called on the Arab nation to truly understand the Egyptian peace initiative. The foreign minister stressed that Egyptian policy based on democracy helps promote Arab rapprochement. He said that Egypt does not impose conditions on anyone and does not accept conditions.

On Egypt's stand on the Gulf war, Dr 'Abd al-Majid explained that this stand stems from Egypt's pan-Arab responsibility and its concern for the security of the Gulf. He warned of the dangers of the Iraqi-Iranian war which opens the door to foreign interventions.

Kampuchea's Sihanouk Concludes Cairo Visit

Sihanouk Makes Departure Statement

NC011353 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1320 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] Cairo, 1 Aug (MENA) — Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of Democratic Kampuchea, has expressed his profound gratitude to President Husni Mubarak and the Egyptian people for their support to the Kampuchean cause. In a press statement made prior to the farewell ceremony at Al-Qubbah palace, Prince Sihanouk said: We thank President Husni Mubarak for honoring us and for the great role he has performed in bringing about the success of our mission during our visit to great Egypt.

Prince Sihanouk pointed out that the Arab Republic of Egypt will continue to support the national rights of the Kampuchean people in various areas so that they may attain their legitimate rights and acquire self-rule to build an independent, nonaligned, and peace-loving state.

In his press statement, Prince Sihanouk pointed out that he held discussions at the highest level with President Husni Mubarak, Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, and Consultative Council Speaker Dr Subhi 'Abd al-Hakim. He said that the discussions were on a good level.

Sihanouk affirmed his country's support to the Palestinian people and other peoples in their efforts to attain their legitimate rights. Concluding his press statement, Prince Sihanouk said: Long live President Mubarak; long live the Arab Republic of Egypt; and long live the friendship between Egypt and Kampuchea.

Prince Sihanouk Departs Cairo

NC011043 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1027 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] Cairo, 1 Aug (MENA) — Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of the coalition government in Kampuchea, left Cairo at noon today following a 5-day visit to Egypt. Prince Sihanouk was given an official send-off at the Republican Palace in Al-Qubbah. Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali led the officials who said good-bye to the prince.

Joint Statement Issued

NC011228 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1200 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] Cairo, 1 Aug (MENA) — The Arab Republic of Egypt and Kampuchea have denounced the continued presence of foreign armed forces in Kampuchea and have called for an immediate and comprehensive withdrawal of these forces in accordance with the five UN resolutions on Kampuchea so that the people of Kampuchea may be able to exercise their right to self-determination freely and without foreign interference.

On the Palestinian issue, the two sides stressed in a joint statement issued today at the end of the visit of Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of Democratic Kampuchea, their full support for the Palestinian people's struggle to restore their legitimate rights and to set up an independent Palestinian state on their land under the leadership of the PLO.

On the Iraqi-Iranian war, the two sides urged the two warring parties to agree quickly on a cease-fire and to begin negotiations to bring about a peaceful settlement of the conflict.

The following is the text of the joint Egyptian-Kampuchean statement: In response to an invitation from His Excellency Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, president of Democratic Kampuchea, paid an official visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt from 27 July to 1 August 1984.

During the talks, the two presidents discussed bilateral relations and ways of developing and strengthening them. They also discussed international and regional issues of mutual interest. The talks were held in a cordial atmosphere reflecting the quality and strength of the excellent relations existing between the states of Democratic Kampuchea and the Arab Republic of Egypt.

Both sides denounced the continued presence of foreign armed forces in Kampuchea and called for the immediate and comprehensive withdrawal of these forces in implementation of the five UN resolutions on Kampuchea so that the people of Kampuchea may be able to exercise their right to self-determination, freely and without foreign interference.

Within this framework, the Arab Republic of Egypt reaffirmed its recognition of the coalition government of Democratic Kampuchea as the sole legitimate government of Kampuchea, which must take Kampuchea's seat at the United Nations and in international organizations.

The Arab Republic of Egypt also reaffirmed its stand of recognizing Democratic Kampuchea as a full member of the Nonaligned Movement. It also affirmed that Democratic Kampuchea must take its seat within this movement.

On behalf of the people of Kampuchea and on behalf of the coalition government of Democratic Kampuchea, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, president of Democratic Kampuchea, expressed sincere gratitute to His Excellency Muhammad Hunsi Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, to his government, and to the great Egyptian people for the noble and effective support they have given to the Kampuchean people's just struggle to safeguard their independence and for Kampuchea's return as a neutral and nonaligned state.

Prince Norodom Sihanouk, president of Democratic Kampuchea, praised the Arab Republic of Egypt's noble decision to reopen the embassy of Democratic Kampuchea in Egypt and to appoint an Egyptian ambassador to him. He also reaffirmed his great appreciation and gratitude to President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and to his government for the valuable support they have given Democratic Kampuchea at the United Nations, in international organizations, and within the Nonaligned Movement.

The president of Democratic Kampuchea reaffirmed the special importance of the Arab Republic of Egypt's strong and friendly support for the Kampuchean people's just cause and for peace and security in Southeast Asia and in the world.

Within this framework, the Democratic Kampuchean side expressed full support for the fruitful efforts the Arab Republic of Egypt is making to establish a just and lasting peace in the Middle East and recover the Arab territories occupied since 1967. The Kampuchean side affirmed the important role the Arab Republic of Egypt is playing in Africa in favor of the unity of the OAU.

The two sides reaffirmed full support for the Palestinian people's struggle to restore their legitimate rights and to set up an independent Palestinian state on their land under the leadership of the PLO.

The two sides expressed support for the reconciliation efforts in Lebanon which have led to the formation of a national unity government. This represents an important step toward the return of security and stability in this country and toward safeguarding its independence and sovereignty. The two sides affirmed the need for the withdrawal of the foreign forces from Lebanon.

Both sides expressed deep concern over the continuing escalation of the war between Iraq and Iran, which is threatening world peace and security. They urged the two warring parties to quickly agree on a cease-fire and to begin negotiations to bring about a peaceful settlement of the conflict. The Democratic Kampuchean side praised the fruitful efforts the Arab Republic of Egypt is making to end this conflict between the two fraternal Islamic countries.

Both sides expressed full support for the African liberation movements and for the Namibian people's struggle for national independence under the leadership of SWAPO, their sole legitimate representative. Both sides affirmed the need for the immediate and unconditional implementation of UN Security Council Resolution No 435 issued in 1978 as the only basis for settling this problem.

The two sides pledged to develop and strengthen bilateral relations in all fields and to continue to consult on international and regional issues of mutual interest.

Prince Norodom Sihanouk, touched by the hospitality accorded to him, to Princess Monique, and to the members of his delegation, insisted on reaffirming his deep thanks and gratitude to His Excellency Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

Chief of Staff Leaves for France, U.S.

NC011030 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1015 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] Cairo, 1 Aug (MENA — Chief of staff of the Armed Forces Lieutenant General Ibrahim al-'Urabi left Cairo at noon today for Paris en route to the United States at the head of a military delegation on a 1-week visit at the invitation of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs Staff of the U.S. Armed Forces General Vessey. Al-'Urabi will hold talks with General Vessey and with commanders of various corps. He will also visit several U.S. military establishments and installations.

Communique No 1,544 on Recent Operations

JN011650 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Communique No 1,544 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 1 August 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With heroic steadfastness and increasing enthusiasm, the sons of our noble people and valiant Armed Forces continue their brave fighting against the forces of the covetous and suspicious Khomeyniite clique. The results for yesterday evening and this morning are as follows:

1. One of our forward units raided an enemy boat and its occupants in the Maysan operational sector. The unit destroyed and sank the enemy boat, killing six enemy personnel.

2. Our daring helicopters today scored direct hits on enemy positions and boats in the operational sector east of Tigris. Other aircraft belonging to the Army's air forces attacked enemy positions and personnel concentration points in the northern operational sector, scoring effective hits. All of our aircraft returned safely from their missions, praised be God.

3. Our forward units used artillery and various other weapons to shell several enemy positions and personnel concentrations in the operational sector east of Basra, destroying two infantry position and one arms depot. They also wounded one enemy.

4. An enemy 106-mm gun was destroyed, and two of the enemy were killed in the central operational sector.

5. Between 0845 and 0930 this morning. the criminal Iranian regime shelled a civilian area in Basra Governorate. Some 15 heavy artillery shells fell, killing a child and injuring three others, including two women.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 1 August 1984

'Khomeyniite Guards' Killed in Clashes With Kurds

JN011729 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1500 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] Kurdish revolutionaries killed another group of Khomeyniite guards during the current clashes in the Iranian Kurdistan region.

The newspaper *FREE IRAN*, organ of the Iranian opposition movement abroad, said that five operation commanders were killed during the recent operation on the western battle lines.

It also explained that the deputy commander of the Special Forces brigade was also killed during clashes with the resistance forces. It added that the Tehran rulers' reticence in disclosing the real number of losses in the ranks of the guards and their commanders explains their heavy human losses during these clashes.

French Magazine on Israeli-Iranian-Syrian Ties

JN011312 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1100 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] Paris —The French magazine *VSD* has disclosed further details on the Syrian regime's conspiratorial role in cooperation with the Zionist entity and the Iranian regime against Iraq. In an article in its latest issue, the magazine said that a number of officials in the Syrian regime, at the top of whom is Rif'at al-Asad, have held negotiations with the Zionists in Geneva on Lebanon's future and ways to continue support for the Iranian regime in its war against Iraq.

The French magazine also emphasized that Zionist weapons continue to reach Iran from occupied Palestine, across Syria, and via its Damascus airport.

The magazine also explained that Zionist trucks carry the weapons to the Syrian border, where Syrian trucks receive the weapons and carry them to Damascus airport. The weapons are then transported to Iran.

Israeli Attack on Nahr al-Barid Reported

JN012048 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
2000 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] Zionist helicopters this evening raided the Palestinian Nahr al-Barid camp in Tripoli, northern Lebanon. A Lebanese spokesman said the Zionist aircraft shelled the camp with rockets and machine guns. He added that the extent of the losses caused by the Zionist air strafing is not yet known.

It will be recalled that the Zionist enemy has shelled Palestinian camps in Tripli several times, claiming that they contained hostile bases.

Turkey Confirms Interest in Oil Pipeline Project

JN011733 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] Turkey has affirmed that it is greatly interested in building a new pipeline to transport Iraqi oil across Turkish territory. The Turkish charge d'affaires in Baghdad issued a press statement today in which he said that this project was proposed at the highest levels in Turkey, especially by Prime Minister Turgut Ozal during his visit to Iraq last May. He explained that the project will be in the interest of both friendly countries.

The charge d'affaires denied press reports quoting the Turkish energy and natural resources minister as saying that Turkey is not interested in the project. He said that these reports were misunderstood by the Turkish press. He affirmed that Turkey attaches great importance to fulfilling its obligations toward this project. He also emphasized that the Turkish Government is determined to avoid any misunderstanding in relations with Iraq. Such press reports, he pointed out, cannot lead to any tension in the relations between the two countries. [sentence as heard]

King Husayn Receives USSR's Polyakov 1 Aug

JN011633 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn this afternoon received Vladimir Polyakov, chief of the Near Eastern Countries Department at the USSR Foreign Ministry. Polyakov presented to his majesty the USSR proposals on convening an international conference for peace in the Middle East. This is aimed at achieving a just, peaceful settlement based on the idea of a complete Israeli withdrawal from all of the occupied Arab territories in return for peace. All concerned parties, including the PLO, would participate in the conference. During the mmeeting, they also discussed ways of promoting bilatera! relations and developing joint cooperation. The meeting was attended by the USSR charge d'affaires in Amman.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B on Expected U.S. Initiative

JN020844 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
0515 GMT 2 Aug 84

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Has the Stage of Initiatives Begun?" *SAWT ASH-SHA'B* says: Washington reports indicate that a senior U.S. official may begin moves in our region by bringing proposals that will complete or amend the Reagan plan. These reports come at the sidelines of the Soviet call for reviving the idea of an international peace conference. Both the Soviet and U.S. moves are parallel but are moving in opposite directions. This shows that achieving any tangible or guaranteed results in the near future is impossible.

The Soviet initiative and the peace conference are based on a condition which proved to be impossible in the past, and the current international situation does not indicate any change that will help the two superpowers agree to draw up an international framework for peace in the Middle East.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B continues: Regardless of the nature of future moves, the United States no longer possesses any cards that qualify it to play a unilateral role to tackle the Middle East issues. On the contrary, any U.S. move will be invested to consolidate the current convenient situation —convenient vis-a-vis the objectives of U.S. policy in our region. Israel is in a satisfactory military situation and is not exposed to any serious outside threat. In addition, the Israeli-U.S. cooperation has reached a stage the likes of which have not been known before. In Washington's view, this cooperation is a fait accompli which the Arabs must deal with regardless of their stand toward U.S. policy and the issue of peace. At the same time, the Iran-Iraq war has opened new horizons for a U.S. role in the Gulf region while the Arab stand does not pose a threat either to Israel's plans or to Washington's interests.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B says: Hence the importance of the Soviet stand in support of Arab rights as cited in the international resolutions —a stand which fills the gap of Arab weakness and inability to alter the situation. Revitalizing the call for the only course left to reactivate peace efforts at this stage reminds everyone of the international responsibility of finding a solution to the Middle East problem. In addition, this revitalization will expose the joint U.S.-Israeli role in closing the door of peace and obstructing the international resolutions on the Middle East.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B adds: Biased U.S. stands against the Arabs and the positive Soviet stand toward the Arab region will give the Soviets a greater role in the peace process and in the developments in the Arab arena. If the Soviets learn from past mistakes, it will be clear that U.S. influence and interests will diminish in harmony with the U.S. stands toward the Arabs. This may be the slogan of a next stage or round, a stage which the Soviet policy will win in our region. We the Arabs, may win this stage if we know how to play our cards and stands in the right direction.

Israeli Raid on Nahr al-Barid Reported

JN011950 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1900 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] Israeli planes this afternoon committed an aggression against the Palestinian Nahr al-Barid refugee camp 15 km northeast of Tripoli in northern Lebanon. An Israeli military spokesman claimed that the Israeli helicopter raid was aimed against a base from which armed men carried out attacks from the sea against Israel. It is not known yet whether any loss of life resulted from the Israeli aggression.

'Arar on Application of Local Government System

JN011937 Amman Television Service in Arabic
1800 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Excerpt] Sulayman 'Arar, deputy prime minister and interior minister, has said that in accordance with the directives of His Majesty King Husayn the government is proceeding toward the application of local government so that citizens will participate in running their own public affairs. 'Arar added that the government also intends to give wider powers to the governors and administrative officers in order to apply decentralization through local government. 'Arar made this statement during a meeting at Al-Balqa Governorate 'oday which was attended by Muhammad al-Khatib, governor of Al-Balqa; his assistants; administrative officers in the governorate; directors of passport, police, and civil status departments; and other officials.

'Arar pointed out that the government is thinking of returning to the administrative formations system and giving effective power to the administrative officers' jurisdictions. He announced that the government will allocate the necessary sums for this system as of the beginning of next year.

Briefs

Aqaba Marine Sanctuary Planned—Aqaba (PETRA) — Muhammad Sa'id Abu Nuwwar, Aqaba Region Authority director, has emphasized that scientific studies have proven the suitability of the Aqaba Gulf for the establishment of a marine life sanctuary in it, and that work on this sanctuary will begin in the

near future. He told a PETRA-JNA correspondent that contacts are underway with various international quarters to set up this sanctuary, which will be a unique international tourist marine center. He added that this center will contain all types of fish and other marine life and will have facilities for diving and underwater photography. He also announced that the government, in an attempt to protect marine life, coasts and public utilities in Aqaba against pollution, opened an office yesterday known as the Protection of the Environment Office, and appointed Dr Walid Ash-Sharif as its director. The office, he said, will issue regulations and instructions governing environmental affairs and the conservation of nature in the region. [Excerpts][Amman *SAWT ASH-SHA'B* in Arabic 2 Aug 84 p 4 JN]

Reportage on Israeli Raid on Palestinian Camp

VOL on Air Raid

NC011623 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1617 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] Two Israeli [helicopter] gunships strafed the Nahr al-Barid camp area in the north at 1800 before withdrawing southward over the sea. At 1900, Israeli warplanes overflew the north, breaking the sound barrier.

Raid Leaves 1 Wounded

NC011825 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] Security sources in the north said that four Israeli [helicopter] gunships raided the Nahr al-Barid camp area at 1730 today. Gunboats and two F-16's provided protection for the raiding gunships. Initial information said that ground resistance engaged the raiding aircraft. The air raid left one person wounded.

Palestinians Retaliate Against Attack

NC011904 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] The latest security reports, which became available to us a short while ago, indicate that the Israeli air raid carried out this evening by helicopters was directed mainly at the eastern sector of the Nahr al-Barid camp, specifically the Al-Basatin area where several Palestinian positions, including the positions of the Popular Struggle Front, are located. The reports add that Palestinian gunmen sustained several casualties. A state of alert has been declared in the camp in the event that other new operations are carried out.

Soon after 2000, Palestinian dissidents directed artillery shelling from their positions on the Al-Baddawi hills against Israeli gunboats which were roaming the sea opposite the area.

Gunboats Bombard Palestinian Positions

NC011954 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1948 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] We have just received a report from the north saying that Israeli gunboats which are off the Tripoli coast are carrying out random bombardment against military positions on the periphery of the Nahr al-Barid camp. Palestinian dissidents are retaliating.

Bombardment Ends; Clashes Begin

NC012156 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2145 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] The Israeli naval bombardment of Tripoli has stopped. However, clashes involving two organizations broke out tonight. No sooner had the exchange of fire between Palestinian dissidents and Israeli gunboats come to halt, than fierce clashes broke out between the Sunnite Islamic Unification movement and gunmen belonging to the Arab Democratic Party. Medium-caliber machine guns and RPG's are being used in the clashes which are still raging in the Al-Qubbah and Al-Mallulah areas.

Beirut Radio Reports Clashes in Tripoli

NC020820 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 2 Aug 84

[Text] Examinations were resumed at the Lebanese University branches in Al-Qubbah in Tripoli despite the disturbances there. A security report says a clash broke out with machine guns and rockets in the Ash-Sha'rani, Harat al-Barraniyah, and Suq al-Qamh areas in Tripoli at 0300 today.

The clash lasted 1 hour. No casualties were reported. A state of caution prevails in these areas.

Syrian, Israeli Forces Exchange Fire in Al-Biqa'

NC020729 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 2 Aug 84

[Text] Our correspondent in Al-Biqa' has reported that Syrian and Israeli forces exchanged artillery fire for 1 hour last night at midnight.

The fire was concentrated on the area of Kamid al-Lawz, where the Israelis are located, and on As-Sultan Ya'qub and Al-Hammarah, where the Syrians are located. Flares were fired in the area.

Attack on IDF Patrol; Maneuvers in South

NC020634 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 2 Aug 84

[Text] Lebanese national resistance fighters last night carried out an operation against an enemy patrol on the outskirts of Harisa in Tyre District by detonating an explosive device close to the patrol.

The operation was followed by a several-minute clash between resistance fighters and members of the patrol. Reports about the losses say that one vehicle was put out of order and that there were three casualties among the Israeli soldiers.

The occupation forces discovered a rocket on the Sidon-Az-Zahrani Road, which was aimed against one of the largest Israeli concentrations in the Tapline installations in Az-Zahrani. The rocket was detonated after cutting the road for 30 minutes.

Security reports said that in western Al-Biqa' the occupation forces yesterday carried out the largest military maneuver in Lebanon. The maneuver included the Rashayya al-Wadi areas, Al-Muhaydithah, Kawkaba, Kafr Mishki, Mdukha, Khirbat Ruha, and other areas. About 500 vehicles, including tanks, personnel carriers, and rocket launchers, as well as warplanes, took part in these maneuvers.

Lahd Patrol Attacked in An-Nabatiyah

NC011305 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1230 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] Lebanese national resistance fighters in the south attacked a patrol of agent Lahd's forces [army of southern Lebanon] in An-Nabatiyah at noon today. There is as yet no information about the losses inflicted. According to preliminary reports, a speeding car hurled hand grenades and then opened machine gun fire at the patrol.

Karami Statement on 1 Aug Cabinet Meeting

NC011258 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] Before leaving the Presidential Palace in B'abda, Prime Minister Rashid Karami made the following statement about the Cabinet meeting that was held today:

[Begin recorded] [Unidentified reporter] Mr Prime Minister, today's Cabinet meeting seems to have assumed a technical character. What did you discuss at this meeting? Did you approve the security plan for the mountain?

[Karami] First the Cabinet was briefed by the Army Command and the Military Council about the arrangements to consolidate the Army in a way that would ensure the best possible implementation of the security plan. The Cabinet also listened to the details of the security plan implementation in downtown Beirut. The Cabinet also examined the progress made by the Army regarding the security plan for the mountain and the stages of its implementation. In this light, and having reviewed this plan, the Cabinet decided to discuss it in a special session with the concerned parties — particularly with Walid Junblatt, Nabih Birri, and the Lebanese forces — to find out how they view such a plan. This plan should also be submitted to the Cabinet for its endorsement and approval. This is what the Cabinet discussed, apart from the topics on the agenda.

[Reporter] Mr Prime Minister, it has been leaked that an emergency Cabinet meeting will be held next Monday. Will this meeting be dedicated to a discussion of the security plan for the mountain with the concerned parties?

[Karami] This may happen in light of the preliminary studies I mentioned previously. However, this meeting is supposed to deal primarily with those political issues and solutions contained in the policy statement.

[Reporter] Is it likely that members of the constituent body will be appointed to open the political file?

[Karami] The Cabinet intends undoubtedly to open the political file. Everything political is on the Cabinet's agenda.

[Reporter] Has the discussion dealt with the security plan for the north?

[Karami] No. This was not discussed today. It might be discussed soon.

[Reporter] Is there a specific stand you will adopt on the question of (?hijacked) planes?

[Karami] The Cabinet has decided not to receive any hijacked planes.

[Reporter] Have the identities of the hijackers of the Air France plane been disclosed?

[Karami] No. We have not been advised of these details. [end recording]

USSR's Polyakov To Arrive in Beirut 3 Aug

NC020530 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 2 Aug 84

[Text] Vladimir Polyakov, chief of the Near Eastern Countries Department at the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs, will arrive in Beirut tomorrow as part of a tour which includes several Arab countries. Diplomatic sources say the purpose of the Soviet official's visit is to ascertain Lebanon's views regarding the Soviet proposal for an international conference on the Middle East, to be attended by Lebanon and the parties concerned.

Several deputies believe that the Soviet proposal for an international conference on the Mideast crisis is beneficial regarding the solving of Lebanon's crisis. Meanwhile, some deputies believe that a conference would be of no use because of the tension prevailing in the relations between the two superpowers.

Russian Newspaper Interviews Minister Nabih Birri

For a 31 July *SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA* newspaper interview with Minister Nabih Birri during his visit to Moscow, see the Middle East & North Africa section of the 2 August Soviet Union *DAILY REPORT*.

Junblatt Stalling on Army Move Into Mountain

NC021123 Paris AFP in English 1109 GMT 2 Aug 84

[Excerpts] Beirut, Aug 2 (AFP) — Government plans to move army troops into the Ash-Shuf mountains east of Beirut are being stalled by the Druze chieftain, Walid Junblatt, whose forces control most of the region, it was reported today. Mr Junblatt, who is transport minister of Lebanon's three-month-old government, told a Cabinet meeting yesterday: "We are not going to let anyone win through peace what they failed to obtain through war."

A blueprint for the gradual deployment of Lebanese soldiers in the sector stretching from the Beirut-to-Damascus Highway east to the coastal highway west was to have been approved at the Cabinet's weekly meeting yesterday.

Mr Junblatt was reported to be resisting the army takeover in all but the main roads leading through the Ash-Shuf mountains. Both Mr Junblatt and Shi'ite leader Nabih Birri, also a member of the Cabinet, are insisting that an army takeover of the

Ash-Shuf and 'Alayh mountains be matched by a similar deployment in Christian-controlled Kasrawan to clear remaining barricades and obstacles strewn along the line dividing Beirut into Moslem and Christian sectors. The clean-up represents the last step in the government's move to reunify the capital, following the reopening of all major passages between East and West Beirut.

Barriers Removed From Downtown Beirut 1 Aug

NC011426 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] In cooperation with the Oger-Liban Company, the Lebanese Army accomplished an important security achievement on the ground at 1500 today. The Army removed the sand bunkers and barricades in front of the Empire Theater, the Big Theater, and Riyad as-Sulh Square. This is considered to be a great success because this is the first time that these barriers have been removed since 1975.

The operation was supervised by Brigadier General Muhammad al-Haj, commander of the Beirut operations room forces; members of the Security Arrangements committee; and Central Sector Commander Colonel Sami Rihanah.

VOAL Reports Clashes in Various Areas 1 Aug

NC020610 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 2 Aug 84

[Text] Tension has been reported in the mountain and in the Iqlim al-Kharrub areas. Security reports say clashes with medium and light machine guns broke out last night in Suq al-Gharb, 'Aytat, Al-Ma'rufiyah, Bsaba, Kafr Shima, and the Ash-Shuwayfat areas.

The clashes abated after midnight.

In Iqlim al-Kharrub, Phalangist militias continued their attacks with sniper fire.

B'asir, Al-Mughayriyah, and Tilal Hsrut received machine gun fire from militia positions in Al-Mtulla, Harat B'asir, and Majdaluna.

Lebanese Forces Give Number of Kidnapped Persons

NC011533 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] In a press statement today, Karim Baqraduni, the Lebanese Forces' political adviser, said that the number of kidnapped persons held by the Lebanese Forces does not exceed 80, and that the number of those held by the Amal Movement and the Syrian Social Nationalist Party [as heard] does not exceed 70 persons.

He added that the Lebanese Forces are quite prepared to release all kidnapped persons. He, however, asserted that the organizations in West Beirut have no courage to announce the number of the kidnapped persons they are holding.

Baqraduni expressed the conviction that political decentralization is the shortest road to unify Lebanon and that the security plan will lead to such a decentralization.

Text of Hafiz al-Asad Interview With LE MONDE

JN011359 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 1 Aug 84

["Text" of interview granted by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to *LE MONDE* Chief Editor Andre Fontaine in Damascus on 27 July — read by announcer]

[Text] Question: How do you view France's policy?

The president: We wish to see a more balanced French policy.

Question: Then you see that it is not balanced?

The president: Of course. France's coming to Lebanon did not show an impartial French position toward the Arabs and Israel. France's shelling of the Syrian forces in Lebanon cannot show impartiality toward Syria and Israel. France did not come to Lebanon. It came within the NATO framework. With it came Italy and Britain which were led by the United States. However, Italy and Britain did not do what France did and were not parties to the Lebanese conflict. At that time we did not return the French shelling. We explained to the director of the French External Relations' Ministry, who came to us following the shelling, that we did not want any problems or complications with France. The Americans shelled us and repeated their shelling and we confronted them as is well known.

Question: Did you say this to Claude Cheysson?

The president: In fact I did not meet Claude Cheysson. The problem has nothing to with Cheysson personally, who has friends here and is appreciated in Syria. I do not believe that Cheysson decides the French policy.

Question: No, it is the president of the republic.

The president: The president, the government, the Parliament, the party and the Secretariat.

Question: However, President Mitterrand is convinced that he is following a completely balanced policy?

The president: A man has the right to his own convictions. He may think so but we think otherwise.

Question: Do you think that this policy is too pro-Israel?

The president: Of course.

Question: But France recognizes the need to establish a Palestinian state. This completely contradicts the Israeli policy. The Israelis do not like France's policy?

The president: Perhaps there are things that we do not know. We hope to know them at the proper time. There is nothing to indicate that Israel is displeased with the French policy.

Question: Whether a state is pleased or displeased with a certain policy is not important. What is important is the extent to which this policy leads to peace. I believe that President Mitterrand views the issue from this standpoint. You met with President Mitterrand?

The president: We have not met yet. If we meet it would be an occasion for more expanded discussion. But if I discuss all of President Miterrand's views and actions through the *LE MONDE* newspaper, he will consider this to be a deviation from convention and irregular and there will be nothing else left for us to talk about. We have always believed that France occupies an advanced position in Western Europe with regard to our cause. We always hoped that France would always preserve this advanced position concerning our issues.

Question: What caused you to condemn Yasir 'Arafat and what are the reasons for his expulsion from Syria?

The president: In general, I do not like giving my opinion about any one through the press. However, it may be said that 'Arafat harmed the Palestinian cause and Syria. We informed him that he should not visit Syria. In any case, he had more problems with his brothers in the PLO and in Fatah than with Syria. The Palestinian resistance has its ground in Syria; its springboard is in Syria. The Palestinian resistance in Syria will always remain united. There is no fear of division within the resistance in the future in the true meaning of the word resistance because we will render to the resistance all kinds of support. But resistance far from Palestine is something else. It may be called by any other name except resistance. Those who want to resist must be near his land, near the target for which he is struggling. How can the Palestinian resistance be hundreds of kilometers away from Palestinian land? In general there may be certain politicians and media representatives for the resistance; they may be far away. But genuine resistance should be based in or around the battlefield.

Question: But allow me to continue with the subject. What do you have against Yasir 'Arafat, or the policy he is pursuing?

The president: We pursue two completely different policies. In our Palestinian policy, we agree with all fighters and strugglers in Syria and Lebanon — in other words, with all the strugglers who have an effective influence on the course of struggle for the Palestine question. Still, we do not want to impose any specific policy on Yasir 'Arafat. This is his affair, and that of the Palestinian organizations. I feel that if you were to meet with these Palestinian strugglers and ask them their viewpoint on what 'Arafat has done and is doing, they would give their own answer. We as a state have our Arab policy as well as our Palestinian policy, on which we differ with Yasir 'Arafat. I believe that Mr Fontaine understands me very well when I say that we pursue two completely different policies. He fully understands Syria's policy, because it is a declared and known policy.

Question: The French reader wants to known why Syria supports one resistance group against another.

The president: We support the Palestinian resistance because, in our opinion, it embodies the spirit of Palestinian struggle. We do not impose any specific formulas on the Palestinian arena. We simply say that this is their affair. Naturally, we support those whom we think embody Palestinian struggle. Historically, we in

Syria have always been concerned with the Palestine question. Like any Palestinian, we consider it to be our cause. Were it not for this, we would not have been prepared, as Syrian citizens, to sacrifice our blood for the sake of this cause.

Question: Do you believe there is a possibility of a solution between the Israelis and the Palestinians in the foreseeable future?

The president: I do not believe so.

Question: Do you think that this is desirable?

The president: If you mean a separate solution between the Palestinians and the Israelis, then I will give an exact answer to the question and say that this is not desirable.

Question: But do you desire a comprehensive solution in the region, including a settlement between the Israelis and the Palestinians?

The president: None of the Palestinians can carry through a solution between them and Israel. This is because it is not a Palestinian-Israeli conflict. The Arab summit resolutions prevent any Arab side from acting unilaterally in the settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Therefore, I said that there will be no Palestinian-Israeli solution, and that such a solution will be undesirable and in fact impossible.

Question: Do you believe that there can be a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict in the near future, including a settlement of the Palestine question?

The president: Naturally, any solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict will incorporate the Palestine question. We have repeatedly affirmed that we want just peace in this region. We also affirmed that this just peace must be on the basis of the UN resolutions. We and other Arab states, as well as foreign countries, have been active in this regard and on this basis. But the stumbling block was always the Israeli expansionist complex, the unlimited U.S. support for this Israeli expansion, and the occupation of our territories from time to time.

Question: Regarding the occupation of southern Lebanon, do you believe there can be a synchronized Syrian-Israeli withdrawal outside the framework of the comprehensive solution?

The president: What do you mean by the comprehensive solution? Do you mean the solution to the Middle East question?

Question: Yes, I mean a solution on the basis of Resolution No 242 and other resolutions to achieve a final settlement.

The president: We believe that the Lebanese situation should be separated from the Middle East issue.

Question: If Israel withdrew from southern Lebanon, do you think that the Syrian forces could be withdrawn from Lebanon either partially or completely, at the same time or shortly afterward?

The president: We refuse to link our presence in Lebanon as fraternal Arab forces, which entered Lebanon at the official and popular Lebanese request, with the presence of the invading Israeli forces, which came to vanquish the Lebanese people and the Palestinians who live in Lebanon and to commit aggression against an independent, sovereign Arab country which is a member in the United Nations and the Arab League. The Israelis and the Americans realize our rejection. This is popular Arab will based on a common history, language, interest and destiny. France in particular should fully realize this interrelation between Lebanon and Syria within the framework of our affiliation to the Arab nation.

Question: Syrian-Lebanese relations are stronger than inter-Arab relations, so much so that Syria has not officially recognized Lebanon's independence — that is, it has not recognized Lebanon as a sovereign state and you do not have an embassy in Lebanon.

The president: Yesterday, I met with the Lebanese prime minister and held discussions with him as the prime minister of an independent, sovereign state. I did not receive him as a mere Lebanese citizen, but as Lebanon's prime minister. Before that, I received Lebanon's president.

Question: However, as far as international law is concerned, the nature of relations between Syria and Lebanon is not quite like the relations between Syria and the other Arab countries.

The president: Do you mean from the official or popular standpoint?

Question: From the standpoint of international law. My question is — are there normal diplomatic relations between Syria and Lebanon?

The president: I do not know why you minimize our relations with Lebanon by embodying these relations in an office in which we put a number of employees. Lebanon is an independent, sovereign state. However, that does not mean that we are not one people. No one can separate or destroy our existing relations. This is clearly confirmed by the recent Israeli invasion backed by the United States and NATO. This support was not merely political, but military as well. The Lebanese people can never be separated from their Arab body. When we say their Arab body, we mean the nearest and principal part of this body — namely Syria. When we fought against the Ottoman and French colonialism, we fought as joint and unified parties, organizations, and groups. There were no borders to separate the Syrian and Lebanese citizens. This has always been the relationship between Syria and Lebanon within the framework of our Arab affiliation. Our affiliation is to one nation and within the framework of this special relationship between the two countries — a relationship of history, language, destiny, and interest. I have indicated this a short while ago. We want Lebanon to be an independent, sovereign state whose independence is untarnished by anything. No Syrian Embassy in Lebanon can ever solve the Syrian or Lebanese problems, or solve relations between the Syrians and the Lebanese. This is because the complexity of the daily and continuous relations is too great to be tackled by any embassy.

Question: Is this why there is no embassy then?

The president: We have not done this. It was agreed upon when both Syria and Lebanon gained their independence, and no embassy was set up.

Question: Is this the special relationship that surprises some people?

The president: This special relationship shows the depth of relations between the two countries. However, as I have said we support an independent, sovereign Lebanon. Lebanon is, like Syria, a member of the Arab League. There are daily contacts between us and the Lebanese officials at the level of ministers, prime ministers, institutions, and even presidents. No ambassador can replace all of these relations. At any rate, an embassy is not being discussed. Lebanon's situation is too complicated to be in need of an embassy.

Question: I did not say that it is a current need, but I said it was proof of the special relations between Syria and Lebanon.

The president: Of course there are special relations.

Question: You received Rashid Karami in Damascus. Do you have an impression that the situation in Lebanon is moving toward normalization?

The president: Yes, the situation is improving.

Question: You made a great contribution to that.

The president: Our brothers know that we are determined to help Lebanon. Yesterday, we confirmed our continued determination to them. We believe that through cooperation between us and our brother Lebanese parties we have achieved good, positive steps and have managed through that cooperation to bring them to the negotiating table.

Question: Was this achieved by pressuring them from time to time?

The president: Regarding relations between brothers and friends, no one can classify actions. No one can tell whether this action was the result of a pressure or a friendship. In fact, we understand these relations as fraternal requiring continued discussions and dialogue to reach joint opinions. We do not feel that we exercised pressures. Cooperation always requires dialogue. We always confirm to each other that we reach positions and opinions that express our joint beliefs.

Question: At the Lausanne meeting, some factions wanted to kill the other factions. You managed to make all of these factions enter the same government. It is certain that you used strong arguments.

The president: The majority of the Lebanese people believe that we are concerned about Lebanon's interests, and our views stem from that position.

Question: But how could you convince them to reach this formula?

The president: Through patience, effort, and fraternal concern. We feel that they are our brothers and that we are concerned with their pains. This helped us, and this is the difference between us and other people seeking Lebanon's interests but not prepared to be preoccupied with this issue. In Lausanne, some of them took negative positions; however, relations between us did not change as a result of these positions. All doors remained open for any discussions between us. This is a sign that we try to convince and not to exercise pressure.

Question: During the Lebanese civil war, you went beyond persuasion because you interfered several times.

The president: We interfered in accordance with their demands and the legitimate authority's demands. We should go back to history. When Sulayman Franjiyah was president and Rashid Karami was prime minister, the president insisted that we interfere. We did not meet this request eagerly. We did not want to send our forces to Lebanon, because this is considered a sacrifice. We hoped that neither we nor Lebanon needed such a sacrifice. If you are thinking about our interests in Lebanon, these interests do not need the presence of Syrian forces in Lebanon.

Question: I am not talking about interests, but we have the impression that Syria exercised pressure on the various factions to reach an understanding. Let us say that this pressure was fraternal.

The president: This came following our entry into Lebanon. We entered Lebanon to stop the civil war. This entry was at the request of Lebanon's legitimacy. Following our entry into Lebanon, and after we managed to stop the civil war, some people wanted to use us against some others people. We entered Lebanon to stop the killing and to prevent repression. It is impossible for us to become a tool in the hands of one party to destroy another party. In fact, this led some of them to confront us. The fact that both parties confronted us at different times is a sign that our fraternal role was aimed at stopping the fighting. Had we sought narrow interests, we would have supported one party against another, and we could have managed to make any party achieve victory. But we did not do that. We wanted all of Lebanon's factions, parties, and sects to live together and to develop their own system in accordance with their interests. We undoubtedly, faced an embarrassing situation at that time.

After we succeeded in stopping the civil war, the same parties were to begin the dialogue process to achieve peace after we achieved security for them. We have always helped the Lebanese authority, despite its difficult circumstances. There was no effective initiative by the Lebanese officials during that phase. There is no doubt that removing Lebanon from that phase was possible, but this needed brave national decisions by the Lebanese officials. This did not take place. We told them that we wanted to help them as a legitimate Lebanese state and authority. We told them: We will not replace you, and we will never make Lebanese national decisions. You have the right to make deci

sions, and you should make appropriate decisions to save Lebanon.

We had many discussions. We believed that they should have exerted more efforts to realize peace. However, we emphasized that national accord was the best way. If you consider this a pressure, this pressure came from them and not from us. In fact, we have always confronted pressure and tried to prevent its influence.

Question: At any rate, you are the eldest brother who settles differences and hostilities among his younger brothers.

The president: True. Lebanon has suffered many losses, but we have also spared it thousands more. The price was our own victims.

Question: Allow me to ask a question on the Israeli elections. Do you believe that there is a possibility of a change in the political situation in the region?

The president: As far as the Israeli elections are concerned, it seems it is still premature to make any categorical judgment on this subject. But the initial impression is definitely that there is nothing that calls for optimism over the possibility of a move toward peace in the immediate future. This is due to the lack of any clearcut ideological or political differences between Israeli organizations. They are outbidding one another in one direction. Everyone is bidding on the subject of Israel's power, militarism, and military preparations. They are pursuing a single track on these major issues. Therefore, the Israeli voter could not distinguish between one organization and another. True, some of these organizations tried to present certain minor points that distinguished them from the others, but these points were not sufficient to achieve a unity and a merger on the greater issues. Some Israeli parties and officials present certain points of detail to preoccupy public opinion in many countries. For instance, one party raises the issue of suspending the building of settlements. This point immediately becomes a major issue. Actually, it does not mean anything. This is because the party that calls for suspending the settlements does not say that the whole idea of building these settlements is wrong, and does not say that these settlements will not be built in the future. All of this means that the disagreement is not over the essence of the issue. There are many other examples.

Question: Do you believe, Mr President, that this Arab- Israeli dilemma will be solved one day?

The president: Yes, especially when the Israelis abandon their expansionist ambitions and lose all hope in the possibility of achieving greater Israel, from the Nile to the Euphrates. In a message addressed to Begin a few days ago, Shamir referred to greater Israel. When Shamir visited France a few years ago, he was asked: Why do you not define Israel's borders? He said: They are defined in the Torah.

This was repeated recently in the debate between Shamir and Shimon Peres on French television. Moshe Dayan was Israeli defense minister in 1967. On his first visit to Israeli soldiers on the Golan, which was occupied by Israel that year, Dayan told the soldiers: Our predecessors achieved Israel with its 1948 boundaries, our generation achieved Israel with its 1967 boundaries — in other words, Israel that included Golan, Sinai, the West Bank, and Gaza — and it is your duty to achieve greater Israel. I would like to point out here that Dayan was a member of the Labor Party.

Question: How do you assess the superpowers' role in the region?

The president: The USSR plays a constructive role. It works for peace, opposes Israel's aggression and occupation of territories, and truly supports the real peace initiatives that have so far been proposed. As for the United States, it only speaks about peace, but does nothing about it. It also provides Israel with unlimited quantities of the best types of arms produced by U.S. industries. All of this conflicts with the Americans' claim about their desire to achieve peace. We now see how they are vying with one another about arming and backing Israel and ensuring its superiority over the Arab states. We expressed this opinion directly to the Americans. They speak about peace, but also give unlimited funds and arms to Israel. The USSR has an independent viewpoint on the incidents of this region; in other words, it consults with its friends, but it forms its own convictions. On the other hand, the United States does not have an independent opinion or an American policy in this region. The United States implements the policy that is decided by Israel; in other words, there is an Israeli policy in our region that is implemented by the United States.

Question: However, I have heard some Arabs say that Israel is a bridgehead for the United States in the region, in the sense that Israel is the one that implements U.S. policy.

The president: That is all right then. Our principal enemy is the United States, and not Israel. However, the United States is actually the one that implements Israeli decisions. Any Arab who says otherwise is undoubtedly mistaken. I am not saying this because I have predicted or deduced it, but because this is what I feel and see. U.S. envoys — there have been many of them these years — come with ideas and so-called peace missions. None of them have come up with any ideas except those approved by Israel. I told one of them once: You are only an Israeli correspondent who conveys Israel's ideas.

Many of them do not take offense at such talk.

Question: Did you say such things to Dr Kissinger?

The president: I told him many things like this and more. At any rate, Kissinger is different from many of the U.S. politicians whom I have met. He undoubtedly sympathizes with Israel, and I can even say that he is one of the most supportive and biased Americans to Israel. However, he has a comprehensive concept of the future. Throughout his discussions he always supported Israel in light of his concept of the region's future. It seems to me that he was more aware of Israel's interest than the Israeli officials themselves. He is intelligent and educated, but despite that we disagreed with him. As I learned later, he felt afterward that it would have been preferable if he had adopted another course. He believed in the policy of tackling one step at a time.

We disagreed with him in this regard. We believed at that time that a peace conference should have been held, and that a comprehenisve peace process which could succeed should be implemented. However, we did not believe that partial steps could succeed in achieving a comprehensive peace.

Question: How do you explain the lack of a U.S. policy in the region? How do you explain how a small state like Israel can lead a superpower like the United States, on whose financial aid Israel depends?

The president: They assert and reiterate their commitment to and support for Israel, and the need for Israel's superiority over all the Arabs. They assert this to us directly. They have never told any Arab otherwise. Such commitment means that their policy in the region can only be Israel's policy.

Question: Can I understand why this happens?

The president: It may be not advantageous to say everything in answering this question. However, let us simplify the issue by saying that this stand largely depends on the U.S. elections and the Jewish influence inside the United States. They occupy key positions in U.S. financial, media, and perhaps military life. They are an organized group inside the United States, and it seems that they have a great deal of influence because they are a powerful, organized force. Of course, there are Jews who oppose Zionism.

Question: With regard to the Gulf war, do you see any hope in finding a solution to this war?

The president: It seems that the road has been blocked to date. Since its outbreak, we attempted to find a solution to and a way out of this war. Despite our deteriorating relations with the Iraqi regime at that time, I personally made contacts and telephone contacts with a number of Arab officials. I did not receive the necessary response. Other Arab presidents and leaders attempted to make contacts with Iran and Iraq. At the beginning of the war, it was possible for us to find an appropriate solution, because the losses were small at the time. However, Saddam Husayn replied to some Arab leaders who wanted to mediate by saying that any Arab who mediates in this war is a traitor. This is perhaps why some Arabs shied away from mediation, since in the opinion of the Iraqi ruler it meant treason. During my contacts with the Arab presidents at that time, I said: We have met now at any level. [sentence as heard]

I had earlier proposed a meeting at foreign ministers' level through which we could find a solution. However, this solution could be found if we meet after few days. [sentence as heard]

I thought that as time passed and losses increased it would be difficult, if not impossible, to find a solution. Now that the losses are great, all recent mediations have failed. As far as we in Syria are concerned, Saddam Husayn declared the war against us before declaring it against Iran. He severed relations, and ordered that the Syrian Embassy staff in Baghdad be beaten and tied up. They were photographed like this inside the embassy. I do not think that there has ever been such a precedent in relations between countries. Moreover, Saddam dispatched large quantities of explosives to Syria.

Question: Allow me to ask a question on Muslim fumdamentalists. What is Syria's stand on these fundamentalists, and is this not a hot issue for Syria following the disturbances in Hamah?

The president: We take great, unlimited pride in Islam, and fight those who distort its image. Therefore, we agree with everyone who adheres to true Islam and understands it to mean progress; hostility to imperialism, Zionism, and every colonialism and exploitation in any part of the world, and a main supporter for justice in the world. Those who portray Islam otherwise are not supporters of Islam, but enemies of Islam. We do not have any problem now.

The reference to the subject of Hamah calls for a brief comment. I believe that this is what you want from your reference to the subject. Some people have spoken about suppression in Hamah. I cannot understand how they can reverse the fact and give two different assessments for a single event or concept. When a plane is hijacked in France, Britain, Germany, or in any other country in the world, a big uproar is raised about this terrorist act. When a bomb goes off in a French town or village, a big uproar is also created about this terrorist act. They talk about terrorism daily, and call for combating it. Meetings and conferences are held to combat terrorism. But when the Muslim Brotherhood members willfully murder hundreds of people, no one talks about terrorism.

I wonder what the French Government's position would be if it woke up one day and found terrorist gangs killing people in a French town, butchering, spilling blood, and literally going on a rampage in every part of that town and besieging government establishments in it? It would have one of two choices: Either leave that town under the control of those armed terrorists and their outrages, and thus completely abandon its responsibility toward the people and their security, or attempt to free that town from the grip of the terrorists and rid the people in that town of the woes inflicted by the terrorists.

What happened in Hamah was that armed Muslim Brotherhood gangs attacked a large number of Ba'thists and members of other progressive forces as well as workers and professionals, and killed them in their homes. They also besieged and attacked government establishments. The government carried out its duty and kept losses to a minimum. We had no choice but to expel the terrorists and free the town. What the government did was a basic duty in its capacity as the legitimate authority. Under General de Gaulle, the French Government brought its forces back from West Germany and stationed them around Paris to deal with the 1968 demonstrations. Those were not armed demonstrations. Were those forces recalled to carry out a military parade, or to use them when necessary?

Question: I had intended to start my questions by inquiring about your health. But now that I have seen you in good health and vitality, I feel that there is no need for this question.

The president: Ask if you want. Anyway, I am in good health. This is how I feel, and this is also what the doctors say.

Question: Have you ever been concerned as to who will succeed you one day?

The president: No. I have never been concerned, for the simple reason that the Syrian Constitution, approved 12 years ago, tackles this question. The Constitution was approved by a public referendum. The 21-member party leadership, which is elected by the party rank and file, and the People's Assembly, which is the supreme legitimate authority in the country and whose members are elected directly by the people, shall nominate the person of their choice by public referendum. If he attains the majority vote, then he wins. If he does not win, then they nominate someone else.

At the end of the interview, Mr Fontaine expressed his thanks to the president for the long time he gave for this interview. He said that he considers this to be an expression of appreciation by France and its people. The president replied: We appreciate the French people's struggle for their freedom. This is why we expect the French people to clearly understand our struggle to liberate our territories from Zionist occupation.

General Talas' Makes Army Day Statement

JN011040 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0800 GMT 1 Jul 84

[Text] Damascus, 1 Jul (SANA) — General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister, has stressed that the battle against the forces of aggression, invasion, and conspiracy will continue as long as the forces of invasion and aggression continue to occupy our sacred Arab land. In a statement to the newspaper *AL-BA'TH* published here today on the 39th anniversary of the Syrian Arab Army, Gen Talas said: What the Syrian Arab Army has achieved so far is a subject of pride for every Arab. This Army has become so strong that it can perform its tasks on regional and pan-Arab levels. He added that the Army will continue to fulfill the hopes of the Arab masses — the Arab masses who reject humiliation and capitulation and seek, through their free will, to regain their usurped rights.

The defense minister added: Our fighters have proven that no force can shatter the spirit of the October war. This spirit will continue to be strong regardless of the hostile imperialists' support for the Zionists.

On the march of peace and security in Lebanon, General Talas said: We consider our security and that of Lebanon to be an indivisible whole. We have said and we continue to stress that national accord is the best solution to restoring Lebanon's security and tranquillity. We are sure that cooperation among all Lebanese and their sincere implementation of the security plan will achieve fraternal Lebanon's aspirations to stability and security and keep it Arab, united, and strong. This is what we want for the Lebanese Arab people.

On our Armed Forces' increasing strength and the exploitation of this as a pretext to threaten Syria, the deputy commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces said: Our Armed Forces, with the strength they have attained, can be considered an object of pride for every Arab because they represent the impregnable barrier on which all forces of aggression and invasion that attempt to attack or subjugate us will founder. I do not have to react to these threats because our hero fighter, who stunned the enemy during the October war and the Lebanese war, can decide this and turn our enemy's threats into shocks. Whenever these threats are implemented, they will be dealt with accordingly. In fact, every action has a reaction with undetermined results and dimensions.

Concluding his statement, General Talas urged the fighters to continue their training and strive to achieve the best level of training and master the use of weapons, because combat preparedness and alertness are the means to achieve victory and liberate our usurped Arab land.

Israeli Overflights, Resistance Operations Cited

JN020717 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] Zionist warplanes carried out provocative sorties over Lebanon this afternoon. Beirut reports said that the Zionist warplanes broke the sound barrier over Al-Biqa' and Sidon after provocative sorties over the An-Nabatiyah and Az-Zahrani areas.

In another development, Zionist enemy sources claimed that the Israeli forces had defused a Katyusha shell in Sidon today. Meanwhile, the invasion forces arrested several inhabitants of the village of Qanarit south of Sidon on a charge of planting this shell and of cooperating with the Lebanese national resistance.

A weekly leaflet distributed in Beirut today stressed that the Lebanese national resistance had carried out 25 daring operations against the Zionist invasion personnel and positions and Zionist agents in southern Lebanon during the last week of last month. These operations inflicted several human and material losses on the enemy. The leaflet added that the enemy losses were not fixed due to the stringent measures imposed on the scenes of these operations by the invasion forces.

Khaddam Receives Greek National Economy Minister

JN011553 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] At 1100 today, Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received Constantinos Vaitos, Greek minister of national economy. The meeting was attended by Kamal Sharaf, minister of state for planning affairs, and the Greek ambassador in Damascus. During the meeting, the two sides touched on friendly relations between Syria and Greece as well as cooperation between the two countries in a number of fields.

Qaddurah Receives Greek Minister

JN011709 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1525 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] Damascus, 1 Aug (SANA) — 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, received here today Constantinos Vaitos, Greek minister of national economy.

Kamal Sharaf, minister of state for planning affairs, attended the meeting. During the meeting, the two sides reviewed relations between the two friendly countries, as well as ways of promoting them and increasing trade exchange. They also discussed sea, land, and air transportation between the two countries, and steps to promote it by exchanging delegation visits in this regard.

Ash-Shar' Confers With Vaitos

JN020848 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0815 GMT 2 Aug 84

[Text] Damascus — Foreign Minister Faruq ash-Shar' this morning received Constantinos Vaitos, Greek minister of national economy. The talks revolved around bilateral relations and means of bolstering them in various spheres for the mutual benefit of both countries.

Lebanese Ba'th Officials Meet Counterparts in Damascus

JN012130 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] The Ba'th Party National Command and the Ba'th Party Organization Regional Command in Lebanon met at the Ba'th Party National Command headquarters in Damascus today. 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant Ba'th Party secretary general, presided over the meeting. 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, member of the Regional and National Commands and vice president; and 'Asim Qansuh, regional secretary general of the Ba'th Party Organization in Lebanon, attended the meeting.

During the meeting, they reviewed in detail various situations and developments in the Lebanese arena, especially the steps carried out regarding the implementation of the security plan in greater Beirut, as well as the other steps to be carried out in other Lebanese areas.

The importance of this meeting stems from the fact that the security and political solutions have entered a new and decisive stage, and that there is imminent political accord concerning the return of government institutions, the increase in the number of members in the Chamber of Deputies, and other issues on which an agreement was reached during the recent summit meeting held between President Hafiz al-Asad and President Amin al-Jumayyil. Informed circles here also consider the meeting of the two National and Regional Commands to be important because the next stage will witness an important change both in the course of efforts to solve the Lebanese crisis and in the course of national action.

Reports on Herzog's 1 Aug Party Consultations
TA011730 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1605 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Yosi Qoren report from the presidential residence in Jerusalem — live]

[Excerpts] The National Religious Party [NRP] delegations have just ended their consultations with President Herzog. Upon emerging from the consultations, Prof Avner Sciaky told us that the party is inclined to join only a national unity government, in order to force the two large blocs to sit down together. As for the question of who should be entrusted with this mission, people in the NRP say that if Shamir and Peres do not reach an agreement [haskama] between them, the job should be rotated.

The Tehiya-TZOMET people spent more than an hour with the president, and as was to be expected, asked him to assign Yitzhaq Shamir the job of forming the government, which will hopefully be the broadest government possible; and, if not, to strive to have a narrowly-based government under Shamir. The Tehiya members said they would not participate in an Alignment-led government.

The president is now in conference with the HADASH representatives, who reached the residence not too long ago, following the NRP.

Meanwhile, the president's office released a statement on not summoning the KAKH representative for consultations prior to assigning a Knesset member the job of forming a government. According to that statement, the president will not invite the KAKH faction to send its representatives for the consultations he is engaged in prior to the establishment of a new government. The president's office loathes the threats voiced by the KAKH leader regarding the president. The people of Israel have a long tradition of not succumbing to threats, and the presidents of Israel have always given expression to the spirit of the people. The law does not obligate the president to invite all the factions, and the president is not prepared to tolerate any attack that offends the feelings and honor of many citizens and inhabitants who are members of the minority, including civilians and soldiers who are Muslim, Christian, or Druze. At that point he mentioned the principles included in the Declaration of Independence and the plan advocating racism, discrimination, and the denial of rights which conflicts with the principles of Israel, — which is how he described Rabbi Kahana's plan — and which have no place in the Jewish state. The president repeated, however, that if the KAKH representative rescinds his statements and threats, he will reconsider his position.

Meetings Conclude
TA011915 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1900 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] President Hayim Herzog concluded his consultations with the leaders of some parties about 30 minutes ago. Upon emerging from the presidential residence, the SHAS representatives said they would support a broad-based government if Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir forms it, and if Jewish and religious values are unharmed. They added that it would be safe to assume that they would not join a broad-based government headed by the Alignment, because they had read that party's platform on religious and halakah matters. The platform, they said, scared them.

The HADASH representatives said they would not support a broadly-based government in which the Likud participated. They believe the job of forming the government should be given to an Alignment member, provided he agrees to amend the government's basic guidelines in the direction of the solutions proposed by HADASH.

The Tehiya leaders suggested that the president assign Yitzhaq Shamir the job of forming the next government, be it a broadly- or narrowly-based government. Minister Yuval Ne'eman said his movement will not participate in a broadly-based government led by the Alignment.

The National Religious Party leaders made it clear to the president that they are in favor of establishing a national unity government, and suggest implementing a rotational system involving Yitzhaq Shamir and Shim'on Peres.

Our correspondent Yosi Qoren reports that the president will confer with the representatives of the Citizens Rights Movement, Yahad, Morasha, and Shinuy tomorrow morning.

Yahad Proposes Peres for Post
TA020911 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0900 GMT 2 Aug 84

[Excerpt] After meeting with the president, 'Ezer Weizman said he recommended that the president entrust the job to Peres, but if he fails, there will be room to offer it to Shamir. At any rate, 'Ezer Weizman supports a broadly-based government.

Morasha's Druckman Interviewed
TA020755 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0713 GMT 2 Aug 84

[Yosi Qoren report from the presidential residence in Jerusalem — live]

[Text] The Morasha leaders have just now left the consultations with the president, so let us hear what they have to say:

[Morasha leader Hayim Druckman] We suggested that the president use all the power he has toward establishing a national unity government. It seems to us that is the most important thing the people and the country need right now, especially these days, the eve of the 9th of Ab, when we bemoan the destruction of the Temple to unnecessary domestic rivalry. We believe that it is a vital interest to unite the people, make all parts of the population sit together, and jointly conduct the affairs of state so that Jewish love and fraternity will increase.

We recommended entrusting the job of setting up a national unity government to the incumbent Prime Minister Yitzhaq

Shamir. Naturally, the unity government should be founded on religious, social, and basic national guidelines guaranteeing a common denominator that can truly unite all the partners to it.

[Qoren] Is there such a denominator say between you and the Alignment?

[Druckman] I believe so, and with some goodwill that unites everyone, this will be possible.

[Qoren] What will you be prepared to give up?

[Druckman] First, we must know not what we have to give up, but what that positive common denominator is. I believe that in terms of religion, whatever pertains to the Jewish character of the state — this is something that should unite all of us, and I believe that we can find a common denominator in that. As for the issue of who is a Jew, to the best of our knowledge this is the key to the unity of the people rather than, God forbid, divisiveness. The same holds true for the nature of Sabbath in Israel — also in the religious sphere.

In the social sphere, when economic measures are discussed, we believe there is unity in the request that all strata be taken into consideration, particularly the low-income, weak strata, and preventing any damage to them. Also, in terms of the Eretz Yisra'el issue, we would never want any freeze on settling all parts of Eretz Yisra'el. I believe it is possible to find a common denominator on the basis of the above.

Shinuy, Yahad Leaders Meet

TA020839 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0819 GMT 2 Aug 84

[Text] The consultations between the representatives of the Shinuy faction and the president have just ended at the presidential residence. Our correspondent Yosi Qoren is there:

[Qoren] 'Ezer Weizman, Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer, Shlomo 'Amar, as well as Avraham Tamir — the representatives of Yahad to the consultations — have been with the president for the past 15 minutes. Evidently, everyone knows what they will say: Let Peres try to establish a broadly-based government, and if this fails, then try Shamir.

Not long ago, the Shinuy representatives left the residence. Amnon Rubinstein, speaking for his colleagues, said: We asked the president to assign Peres the job of forming a broadly-based government. One gathers from what he said that he not only asked that Peres be given the job, but he also implied: Do not give it to Shamir.

[Begin Rubinstein recording] We emphasized not only the legal aspect, namely that there are more recommendations for the Alignment than the Likud, but we also mentioned the public aspect: We do not believe that those who let us sink in the quagmire can also extract us from there. [end recording]

[Qoren] Thus, crime and punishment — according to Amnon Rubinstein. That is all from the presidential residence.

MAPAM Stipulates Socioeconomic Principles

TA020930 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 0917 GMT 2 Aug 84

["Announcement by the MAPAM Spokesman" — ITIM headline]

[Text] Tel Aviv, 2 aug (ITIM) — The MAPAM center held a meeting on negotiations toward establishing a government, and agreed that one of the most important factors in any negotiations between parties, toward establishing a government, will be the future government's socioeconomic plan aimed at improving the economic situation.

MAPAM stated that there is a massive difference between the socioeconomic principles of the Labor Party and the Likud's policy as executed over the past 7 years. The latter policy is striving for austerity in the near future, which is why it is impossible to be sure that any agreement could conceivably be reached between the Likud and the Alignment in that sphere. There are no grounds to believe that this is feasible.

MAPAM will insist on five things:

1. That no steps be instituted that could result in unemployment. MAPAM will reject any such plan.

2. That any economic plan be founded on the equal and fair division of the burden in accordance with income and property.

3. MAPAM will turn down any plan that will amend signed wage agreements.

4. MAPAM will demand the appropriate conditions for the production and export branches to function in terms of credit, interest, taxation, and encouragement to exporters.

5. MAPAM will demand steps be taken to allow for a package deal between the government, the Histadrut and the employers.

Media Authorities Limit Kahana Coverage

TA021108 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 2 Aug 84 p 2

[Excerpt] Television and radio will cover Me'ir Kahana only for newsworthy reports which do not violate the principles of the Declaration of Independence and the law on the Broadcasting Authority. This was stated in a resolution made by the Broadcasting Authority's administrative committee, which discussed the issue yesterday.

The resolution said: The administrative committee has adopted a decision to guarantee that the state media will not be used as a mouthpiece for incitement against citizens, for statements injuring the State of Israel, or for opposing the principles of the Declaration of Independence. The committee confirms the director general's guidelines for radio and television directors to check interviews with Kahana, statements attributed to him, and news or articles on his activity according to these principles. Only news items clearly worth reporting which do not violate these principles and the law on the Broadcasting Authority will be permitted.

Arabic Broadcast Criticizes USSR Proposals

JN011830 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1335 GMT 1 Aug 84

["Observation" by 'Ezra Shirazi]

[Text] Dear listeners, immediately after the Kremlin renewed its call at the beginning of this week for holding an international conference for peace in the Middle East, certain Arab sides along with various media organs began to applaud and welcome the Soviet call. Such phenomena may make some imagine the scene of people marching to the Soviet drummer. In contrast, what attracted attention was the UN Secretariat's obviously cool reaction to the Soviet call.

The UN spokesman announced that the Soviet proposal does not contain anything new. Moreover, the reaction presented by some parties' newspapers was not new either.

It is known that the recent Soviet call is a new, but old, call which the Kremlin has frequently put forward since 1981. There are observers who say that the motive behind renewing this call has not changed — namely, to camouflage and conceal the Soviet policy aimed at maintaining the state of no peace and no war in the Middle East as part of the act of fishing in muddy waters, and at deepening the Soviet infiltration in the region.

However, there are observers who think that the Kremlin is now perhaps really eager to achieve peace.

The question that must be asked in this regard is: One wonders what brought about this change in the Kremlin's policy? Even if we assume hypothetically and theoretically that such a change has actually occurred, how can this hypothetical change be reconciled with the Kremlin leaders' renewed call for the idea of an international conference? They fully realize that the proposed conference is a sure prescription for wasting time and sincere efforts to establish peace in the Middle East, and that its fate will not be different from that of the similar conference which was held in Geneva in the 1970's.

Another question is: How can the world, particularly Israel, be convinced of the Kremlin's serious and sincere desire to establish peace in the Middle East while the USSR's diplomatic relations with Israel are still severed, and while the Soviet policy continues to be automatically and disgracefully hostile toward Israel whether at international forums or through Soviet media?

In light of these facts, and in the absence of clear and convincing evidence of the Kremlin's sincere desire to achieve peace in the Middle East, one tends to believe that the Soviet call early this week for convening an international conference is a mere propoganda maneuver.

As for bringing this old, but new, call into the open, it makes one recall a well-known joke among journalists: If you have a good and interesting story, keep publishing it every now and then. However, the story of the Soviet call cannot be regarded as a good or interesting story, but a silly story and an old Soviet joke.

IDF Attacks 'Terrorist Camp' in Lebanon

TA011610 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] IDF helicopters this afternoon attacked a terrorist camp in the area of Nahr al-Barid north of Tripoli in Lebanon. Our helicopters returned safely to their base. The IDF spokesman reported that the attacked camp was used in preparation for naval attacks. The IDF spokesman reports that the attack is part of the IDF's regular policy of hitting the terrorists wherever they are and sabotaging their organization. The helicopter pilots reported accurate hits. Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that the base —which included fighters, boats, and various weapons — belongs to the men of Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], who is one of 'Arafat's enemies.

Further Report

TA012004 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] Navy boats this evening attacked terrorist targets in the Nahr al-Barid area, approximately 10 km northeast of Tripoli. The boats carried out their mission with success, and returned to international waters. The terrorist base that was attacked served as a base from which terrorist attacks from the sea were being prepared. The IDF spokesman says that the attack was carried out as part of the IDF's policy of attacking the terrorists wherever they are, and of sabotaging their attempts to organize.

Envoy to U.S. Raises Concern Over Egypt Stands

TA020956 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 Aug 84 p 2

[Tzvi Bar'el exclusive report from Washington]

[Excerpt] Washington — At a meeting with Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Michael Armacost and Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs Richard Murphy, Israeli Ambassador Rosenne expressed Israel's concern over the statements of Egypt's prime minister that Egypt will return its ambassador and resume talks on autonomy only if Israel withdraws its forces from Lebanon completely. It should be stressed that when Murphy addressed the House of Representatives, he said that Egypt is not making resumption of the autonomy talks conditional on Israel's withdrawal.

Protests Damage to Elat

TA011824 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] Me'ir Rosenne, the Israeli ambassador to the United States, expressed deep concern about the possibility of ecological damage in Elat from the Iranian [as heard] pipeline, and the building of the sewage treatment plant in Aqaba. In a meeting with the U.S. under secretary of state, Ambassador Rosenne demanded that immediate steps be taken to prevent damage to Elat. Our correspondent Elimelekh Ram reports that the Interior Ministry director general and the legal adviser of the Foreign Ministry came to Washington in order to deal with this issue.

Kimche Calls Egyptian Charge for Thorough Talk

TA021112 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 2 aug 84

[Text] Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche today summoned the Egyptian's charge d'affaires, Muhammed Basyuni, for a thorough discussion of bilateral relations. The Foreign Ministry spokesman reported that the director general expressed Israel's dismay over statements made by President Mubarak in Alexandria a week ago, when he made the return of the ambassador to Israel and normalizing relations conditional upon IDF withdrawal from Lebanon and settling the Tabah question.

In the meeting with the Egyptian deputy chief of mission, Kimche emphasized that the ambassador's presence constitutes an expression of the two countries' desire for peace and friendship, and that there is consequently no room to present conditions for the return of the ambassador.

IDF Supplies Electricity to Egypt Sinai Airbase

TA020959 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 Aug 84 p 6

[Eytan Rabin report]

[Text] The IDF authorities supply electricity to the Egyptian airbase at Ra's An-Naqb (formerly 'Etzyon Airbase) from a military generator. Therefore the Egyptian authorities are not hurrying to pay their $15,000 debt to the Israeli Electric Company.

The Electric Company branch in Elat sent a representative to check the source of the Egyptians electricity supply, and it appears that the IDF is doing this by means of a military generator.

It has been reported that the decision by the Electric Company to cut off the electricity supply was made on the advice of the Joint Israeli-Egyptian Committee headed by Brigadier General Dov Si'on and the Foreign Ministry.

Jordanian Minister Charged With Embezzlement

JN011848 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1430 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] Our correspondent has learned that the competent Jordanian authorities are interrogating Hasan Ibrahim, former minister of West Bank affairs, on the charge of embezzling state funds while serving as a minister in Mudar Badran's former government.

Our correspondent adds that the Jordanian Government had decided to allocate 150,000 Jordanian dinars to establish a science college in Ramallah. The sum was given to a relative of former minister Hasan Ibrahim. However, it became evident that this college absorbed only a small number of West Bank students, and that a large part of the sum was not spent for its orginal purpose.

Arab Nationalists Suspected in Forest Fires

TA021056 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 2 Aug 84 p 1

[Tzvi Ilan report]

[Text] Each year hundreds of forest fires are caused by Arabs in all parts of Israel — mainly in the Barqa'i and Yafa-Nazareth areas — against a nationalistic background. This is stated by the Jewish National Fund [JNF] people who base their claim on evidence.

The director of the JNF ground developement administration, Dr. Hayim Saban, and the director of the central zone of the JNF forestation wing, Gershon Avni, yesterday told *DAVAR* that there is an increase in the number of these cases of arson. They are perpetrated at night or over the weekends, when the JNF alarm and fire combat systems are reduced. Sometimes the arson is outright reaction to the planting of a forest, seen as an Israeli step to proclaim ownership.

It is suspected that in certain cases forests were set on fire when the firemen were engaged in locating large forest fires in other areas. The JNF people have recently met with the head of the police operations department, Commander Tzvi Bar, who promised to comply with their request and increase police action on this issue by means of intelligence activity and patrols by the border police at night.

It should be stressed that over the last 2 or 3 years a policy of not publicizing the fact that many forest fires were caused by hostile elements was followed. However, this policy has proved wrong as the number of cases of arson is steadily increasing.

Solidarity Committee Protests University Closure

TA020942 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 Aug 84 p 3

[Text] The Israeli council for solidarity with Bi'r Zayt University yesterday announced that it protests the government's closure of An-Najah University. The argument that the material found there endangers security is ridiculous and unfounded, the announcement added.

The committee believes that the continuing harassment of academic institutions in the territories will not prevent the students from resisting the occupation, but will, rather, induce criticism against Israel from academic circles abroad.

Briefs

Jerusalem *AL-MITHAQ* Published Daily—Amman, *SAWT ASH-SHA'B* —The Jerusalem Newspaper *AL-MITHAQ* began daily publication as of yesterday, Wednesday. Since it was established in 1979, the paper had been published twice a week. [Excerpt] [Amman *SAWT ASH-SHA'B* in Arabic 2 Aug 84 p 18 JN]

LIBYA

'Terrorist Reagan' Prevents Olympic Reporting

LD011553 Tripoli JANA in English 1438 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] Tripoli Dhulqidah 4, August 1 JAMAHIRIYA NEWS AGENCY — (Mulud Araybi Shalgo) head of the Libyan press delegation to the Olympic Games of Los Angeles has denounced the refusal of the American Government to allow the Libyan Arab press delegation to report the Olympic Games. He described the American measure as repressive and terrorist one as a part of a series of American hostility stands against the people of the Jamahiriyah. He said in an interview with the Jamahiriyah sports newspaper due to be published tomorrow that "the government of terrorist Reagan has no other attention or business but the Jamahiriyah". He went on to say, "It has taken a new hostile position against us by refusing our three pressmen delegation to enter America to participate in reporting the games and following this international sports events". [as received]

He added, "We hoped as sport reporters to follow closely the Olympic Games and write about it as an important international event and an important historical opportunity confirming the noble human relations between peoples but the American Government on motives of hatred and inciting spirit of entity against the Libyan Arab people had stopped that from happening". He explained, "It was not strange for this government to take an action like this because it is the most reactionary, underdeveloped, right wing, terrorist and anti-liberty and progress government".

He confirmed this decision comes as part of the mounting aggressive terrorist activities carried out by the American Government and supervised by Reagan himself against the people of the Jamahiriyah.

He said, "The decision to refuse the Libyan Arab press mission entry to America was another terrorist act to be added to the terrorist actions carried out by the government of Reagan against the Jamahiriyah".

(Mulud Shalgo), head of the Libyan press delegation explained, "The government of terrorist Reagan knows perfectly well we were sports reporters and when it claimed that we were not, it was a lie, and they knew that it was a lie because we were sports reporters and had an official identification confirming that we are members of sports press community in the Jamahiriyah". He pointed in this respect that "I am personally a sports journalist and editor of the Jamahiriya sports newspaper published by the Secretariat of the General People's Committee for Sports in the Jamahiriyah and my colleague Ibn Khalal is a photographer with the same newspaper and the other colleague, Khalifa 'Abd as-Sadiq is an editor of the sports page of the daily newspaper *AL-FAJR AL-JADID*.

(Mulud Araybi Shalgo) pointed out that the Libyan press delegation had carried out lengthy efforts with the American Embassy in Bonn to allow the Libyan press delegation to enter America. He said, "In spite of showing invitation cards addressed to us by the Organizing Committee of Los Angeles Olympics to attend the games, these efforts were rendered useless". He made it clear that the government of terrorist Reagan by this action did not give any weight or attention to morality and human standards and respect of international conventions and laws and had violated the Olympic Charter and norms of the Olympic Games.

He called in this respect the International Olympic Committee, pressmen association and other international organizations and associations to condemn this deliberate preplanned inhumane stand taken against the Libyan journalists and denounce these terrorist practices.

The head of the Libyan press delegation said, "This disgraceful American terrorist action was preplanned because America had enough time to make sure that if we were sports reporters or not, but for deliberate aggressive motives the government of Reagan had taken this action aimed at inciting world public opinion against the Great Al-Fatih Revolution by spreading hatred allegations and unfounded claims to accuse the Jamahiriyah of terrorism". [sentence as received]

The head of the Libyan press delegation concluded his interview with the Jamahiriyah sports newspaper due to be published tomorrow raised questions by asking, "By what right or logic the government of terrorist Reagan forbids the Libyan sports press mission from participating in this Olympics? This is not the Olympics of America and was not established for America organized for it, but it is an international game and every state has the right to participate in it and it is a great opportunity for understanding, dialogue, love and peace presented by the international community to its members, all members and not for only one of them".[sentence as received]

Libyan-Italian Joint Committee Agreements Reviewed

LD011102 Tripoli JANA in English 0935 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] Tripoli, Dhulqidah 4, August 1, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The secretary of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison People's Bureau met yesterday with Giulio Andreotti, the Italian foreign minister. The meeting reviewed what the Libyan Arab-Italian Joint Economic and Social Committee has agreed on. During the meeting, it was confirmed on the need of giving bilateral cooperation between the countries special attention in order to achieve the common interest of the Libyan Arab and Italian peoples.

Andreotti Issues Departure Statement

LD011107 Tripoli JANA English 0941 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] Tripoli, Dhulqidah 4, August 1, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Giulio Andreotti, Italian foreign minister, left Tripoli last night ending a visit to the Jamahiriyah during which he headed the Italian delegation in the meetings of the fourth [as received] session of the Libyan Arab-Italian Joint Committee for Economic and Social Cooperation. The committee ended these meetings last night in Tripoli. Giulio Andreotti gave a press release to JANA correspondent in which he praised the results of his visit to the Jamahiriyah and the agreements

signed to open the day for more intensive efforts and extending cooperation relations between the two countries to include different fields.

He said, "My visit to the Jamahiriyah is an important one due to the political results achieved. We carried out a series of talks about a number of international issues of common interest".

Arab, African Delegations Arrive for Session

LD020002 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2315 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] Delegations to the work of the seventh session of the Permanent Committee on Arab-African Cooperation, due to begin tomorrow in Tripoli, continue to arrive. The following arrived this evening: Peter Onu, OAU secretary general; Dr as-Sadiq Rashid, director of the Social Union, Human and Environmental Settlements in the African Economic Committee; Arondo Saryasa, leader of the Angolan delegation; Brother Mohamed al-Amin Ould Yahya, Mauritanian delegate to the Arab League; and Brother Ahmad ash-Shihabi, deputy chairman of the Economic Department of the PLO.

The following also arrived this evening at Tripoli International Airport: Augustine Stevens, minister of state for foreign affairs in Sierra Leone; Dr Asamoah, Ghana foreign minister; Dr Edward Soma, director general of FAO; Brother Muhammad [name indistinct], deputy under secretary at the Syrian Foreign Ministry; and Mohamed Ali Hammad, Somali minister of state for foreign affairs. Also arriving in Tripoli this evening brother Yaqub al-Kindi, foreign under secretary in the United Arab Emirates; and Yami Al-Hadu, director of the office of Brother Ahmad Mahtar Mbow, UNESCO secretary general, to represent him at the meeting of the Permanent Committee on Arab-African Cooperation; and the ambassador of Ethiopia to Paris.

Arab League's Klibi Arrives

LD011951 Tripoli JANA in English 1800 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] Tripoli, 4 Dhulqidah, 1 August, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Secretary-General of the Arab League Chedli Klibi, this afternoon arrived in Tripoli where he will participate in the meetings of the seventh session of the Afro-Arab Cooperation's Permanent Committee starting in Tripoli tomorrow, Thursday. Arriving at Tripoli International Airport Chedli Klibi gave a press announcement to JANA reporter in which he expressed his pleasure about his visit to the Jamahiriyah and his attendence to these meetings drawing attention to the Jamahiriyah's hosting for such a big gathering.

He said "I would like to say a word of gratitude and appreciation to Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of Al Fatih Revolution for the Jamahiriyah's hosting this gathering, for his caring for the Afro-Arab united action and for his efforts to coordinate policies of mutual interest to the two sides".

The secretary-general of the Arab League stressed that the holding of these meetings on an Afro-Arab land has great significance "particularly if we take into consideration the situation whereby hostile campaign against African and Arab countries fighting for freedom and future is increasing".

He then pointed out that the meeting is to support the institutions of the Afro-Arab cooperation and to demonstrate the commitment of the Africans and the Arabs for preserving the values and principles of this cooperation.

At-Turayki Receives Klibi

LD020922 Tripoli JANA in English 0840 GMT 2 Aug 84

[Text] Tripoli, Dhulqidah 5, August 2, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Doctor 'Ali 'Abd al-Salam at-Turayki, secretary of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison last night met with Chedli Klibi, the secretary general of the Arab league. During the meeting they discussed subjects related to the holding of the seventh session of the Permanent Committee for Arab-African Cooperation which will begin its work tomorrow.

Jabir, Jallud Meet Participants in Tripoli Exercises

LD011254 Tripoli JANA in English 0937 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] Tripoli, Dhulqidah 4, August 1, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The chief of the Armed Forces has met with fighting units and conscripted units which participated in the exercises carried out at Tripoli area and attended, also, by Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Ahmed Jallud and the commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces. The commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces greeted recruited students and affiliates who participated in the exercises and had shown outstanding skills and achieved unlimited success and top abilities to absorb and use all kind of weapons.

The commander in-chief of the Armed Forces greeted also all units which participated in the exercises from the ground forces, air forces, civil defence and recruitment schools. All units participated in the exercise have confirmed solidarity with the Great Al-Fatih Revolution and the leader and committment to the revolutionary propositions and choices. They also confirmed determination to implement the dictum of armed people and defence of the authority of the people, the ultimate authority. At the end of the meeting, the commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces, Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, inspected different kinds of weapons and equipments used in this exercise.

SUNA: Opposition Ridicules Regime's Claims

JN011757 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1420 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] Rome, 1 Aug (SUNA) — A responsible source for the Libyan Salvation Front has affirmed to SUNA that the claims Al-Qadhdhafi and his aides made about foreign parties' involvement in the deteriorating situation in Libya are funny and contradictory, and are indications that the Libyan regime will use these accusations as justification for striking at certain elements in the country whose presence, passiveness, or boycott of the regime disturb the Libyan regime. The regime will also use these accusations to involve some countries in implementing an aggressive plan aimed at encroaching on the sovereignty of these

countries and dragging them, with world public opinion, to participate in this clash which in fact is merely an inter-Libyan clash between the forces of right and wrong.

The source indicated that the stands of countries with political weight in the region such as Sudan, Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia, and Chad will force the Tripoli regime to bend and to make concessions with regard to its stand on Sudan and Chad. He also indicated that the Libyan opposition's heroic attempt to liquidate Al-Qadhdhafi last May has succeeded in destroying the feeble legend that Al-Qadhdhafi is invincible because of the strict security measures and the use of sophisticated technology such as radar and computers. The attempt also confirmed that the Libyan Armed Forces are full of courageous nationalist elements.

This attempt has eliminated fear from the Libyan people, who responded to and lived this uprising. It has given the opposition movement a broad confidence, support, and hope of taking further steps. This attempt has also deeply affected Al-Qadhdhafi and made him realize the true nature of the Libyan people. It forced him to respect the homeland's [word indistinct] and admit the existence of the opposition. Moreover, his media even recognized the opposition's elements and its leaders.

MAURITANIA

Government To Strengthen Cooperation With Italy

AB011005 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] An official document marking the end of the visit by Italian deputy minister for foreign affairs and cooperation to our country was signed yesterday afternoon at the governemnt guest house. The deputy minister left the capital yesterday evening for home. According to the official document, the two sides renewed their desire to strenghthen bilateral cooperation in all fields and to map out plans to make this cooperation very effective.

The Mauritanian side expressed the hope that this cooperation is rapidly planned and put into practice. The Italian side expressed its preparedness to achieve this goals. The document was signed on Mauritania's behalf by (?Ahmed Ould Hallah), deputy minister for foreign affairs and cooperation, while (Afayema), the Italian deputy minister for foreign affairs and cooperation, signed for his country.

MOROCCO

King Receives Guinea's Foreign Minister

LD011521 Rabat MAP in English 1204 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] Casablanca, Aug 1 (MAP) — King Hassan II of Morocco received here Tuesday evening Guinean Foreign Minister Captain Facine Toure, who was accompanied by [the] ministers of finance, of urbanism and housing, and of information. The meeting was attended by Moroccan Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdelouahed Belkziz, the king's adviser Ahmed Bensouda, and the ambassador of Guinea to Rabat Dr Kenkoura Camara.

The Guinean delegation had arrived in Morocco Monday to take part in the meeting of the Moroccan-Guinean Joint Commission.

Premier Lamrani Receives Libyan Transport Secretary

LD011512 Rabat MAP in English 1206 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] Rabat, August 1 (MAP) — Visiting Secretary of the Libyan Popular Committee in Charge of Communications and Transports, Mr Mubarak 'Abdallah ash-Shamikh was received here Tuesday afternoon by Moroccan Premier Mohamed Karim Lamrani.

During this meeting, which was attended by Mr Taieb Ben Cheikhl, minister delegate to the prime minister in charge of economic affairs; Mr Azeddine Guessous, minister of commerce, industry and tourism; Mr Mansouri Benali, minister of transports, the two parties reviewed bilateral cooperation and means and ways to reinforce it in areas of common interest, particularly in transport and communication.

Earlier the Libyan secretary visited the Mohamed V Mausoleum where he prayed for the rest of the soul of the late King Mohamed V.

Briefs

Agreement With France — Rabat, August 1, (MAP) — A Moroccan-French scientific, cultural and technical convention replacing the 1972 one, which expired in 1982, was signed here by Moroccan Minister in Charge of Cooperation Abdelouahed Radi and the French Ambassador to Rabat Roger Vaures. The new convention provides for integrated cooperation programs including at the same time human, material, financial and cultural resources. In highlighting scientific research, the convention aims at setting a balance between the planned programs and the real needs of Morocco with respect to her development plans. [Excerpt] [Rabat MAP in English 1208 GMT 1 Aug 84 LD]

SUDAN

Egypt's Defense Minister Arrives With Message

JN021019 Khartoum SUNA in English 0930 GMT 2 Aug 84

[Text] Khartoum, Aug. 2 (SUNA) — The Egyptian deputy prime minister and defense and war production [minister], 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, arrived here today. Abu Ghazalah was carrying a message from Egyptian President Mubarak to President Numayri.

TUNISIA

AFP: Bourguiba Pardons Islamic Fundamentalists

NC011524 Paris AFP in English 1513 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] Tunis, Aug 1 (AFP) — Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba today granted official pardons to 17 leading Islamic fundamentalists jailed in September 1981 for membership of an

unauthorized organization, it was announced here. Those pardoned are from the banned Islamic Tendency Movement (MTI), and include MTI President Rached Ghannouchi and the organization's Secretary-General Abdelfattah Mourou.

Mr. Bourguiba decided on the measures to mark his 81st birthday, which is on Friday.

Arrested in a large-scale round-up of Islamic activists in July 1981, Mr Ghannouchi and Mr Mourou stood trial with 105 other alleged fundamentalists in September 1981. They were charged with offending the dignity of the head of state, disseminating false information and membership of an unauthorized organization.

All but two of the activists were convicted to jail sentences ranging from one to 11 years, with Mr Mourou receiving 10 years and Mr. Ghannouchi 11. The 17 MTI members pardoned today were the last remaining in prison, all the others having either served their terms or been pardoned in small groups.

Names of Persons Pardoned

LD011432 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Excerpt] President Habib Bourguiba held a working session with Mohamed Mzali, prime minister and interior minister, in the presidential palace this morning. Mzali made the following statement after the session:

On the occasion of his birthday, the president yesterday signed a presidential pardon according to which the following persons will benefit from a cancellation of the remainder of the sentences issued against them by courts of justice in September 1981: Rached Mohamed Ghannouchi, Abdelfattah Mourou, Salah Hedi Karkar, Ben Aissa Mohamed, Ali Younes, Mohamed Nouih, Salah Mohamed Boughanem, Habib Hamida Rihane, Mohamed Bechir Chamam, Abdelaziz Abdessemad Daouad Dmimi, Abdallah Tahar Abdallah Zouari, Mohamed Salah Baghdadi, Ali Minouh, Bousalim, Bouzid Souid, Abderraouf Hadi Mohamed Romdhane, Walid Zoubir, Yousef Bennani, Habib Rhouma, Ali Jendoubi, Mabrouk Ibrahim Mabrouk Frira, Abdelkadir Hassan and Mohamed Traboulsi.

By adopting this resolution, the supreme combatant sets another date in history to be remembered. Because of his generous character, high spirits, and faith in his sons, he is keen that all Tunisians participate in the advancement of the country and in the consolidation of its pride within a framework of peace and forgiveness. We hope that we all rise to the level of the responsibility the president has placed on our shoulders by his decision.

On the same happy occasion the president signed a decree to reduce by 3 months the sentences of 2,952 of those convicted by the courts of justice.

CONGO

Opposition Movement Calls for Release of Ex-President

AB011500 Libreville Africa No.1 in French 1230 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] A movement calling itself the Patriotic Congolese Movement-Common Front [MPC-FC], opposed to President Denis Sassou-Nguesso's regime, has called for the release of the former president of the Congo, General Joachim Yombi-Opango.

According to the president of the MPC-FC, Yombi-Opango, who was arrested in February 1979, has since been detained secretly, without any charges or trial, at the air force base in Pointe Noire and guarded by Soviets and Cubans. Apart from this call on President Sassou-Nguesso, the MPC-FC has also appealed to all humanitarian organizations for the release of the former Congolese head of state.

It will be recalled that the MPC-FC was created in October 1983 and claims to be the merger of two organizations — the Democratic Front of the Congolese Resistance and the Union for the Congolese National Redress.

ZAIRE

Mobutu on Election, Succession, Black League Proposal

AB011815 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1350 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] Kinshasa, 1 Aug (AZAP) — Field Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko yesterday granted an interview to the journalists of the foreign press when the *S.S. Kamanyola* anchored at Mbandaka late in the morning. The journalists came to cover the 28 and 29 July presidential elections. During the interview, he placed the elections within the Zairian context, touched on Zaire's economic situation, explained his idea for a league of black African states, and spoke about his succession in conformity with the terms of the country's Constitution.

Last weekend's voting was a real election and cannot be considered a referendum or a plebiscite. It falls within the framework of the Constitution which calls on Zairians to go to the polls every 7 years to elect the chairman of the MPR who is by right the president of the Republic and consequently the head of state.

This being so, the leader explained that there is no contradiction between the presidential elections and the desire for authenticity because authenticity does not reject modernization. On the contrary, the most remarkable phenomenom, the head of state said, is that since the advent of the Second Republic, he has found it very difficult to make his people accept the idea of elections because those that were held before independence had placed at the head of the national poltical scene people who, between 1960 and 1965, were responsible for all the miseries the country has suffered.

In the minds of the people of Zaire, to a certain degree, the idea of elections represents a phenomenom which creates all sorts of trouble. The most remarkable illustration of this was given during last weekend's elections when the militants of the party felt that red ballot papers [signifying a vote against Mobutu] (?at voting centers) were unacceptable. All these observations explain the need for the organization of intense electoral campaigns in order to explain to the citizens the necessity for elections and the need to respect the legality of elections. As a result, the leader stressed that there was no need to judge the people of Zaire with Western criteria for political organizations. In our country, it is said that the conflict of ideas brings forth understanding. That is our concept of political life.

In our country, we are a juxtaposed society. Each one puts himself beside the other in order to find a modus vivendi. I say out loud that we have the right to be different.

Concerning the slogan of 100 percent, of which the interpretation outside the country is equivocal in some sectors, the head of state said that it is the duty of all campaign organizers to ask the electorate to vote unanimously for their candidate. But this does not mean, in this particular case, that this percentage represents the final results which will be made known on 7 August on the occasion of the extraordinary session of the Central Committee.

In reply to a journalist who wanted to know about his most satisfying success and the failure he regretted most during his term of office, the MPR founding chairman said that when one draws up a program, one does not do it with the aim of failing but rather with the aim of succeeding. He said, however, that he was preoccupied by the kind of heritage that will be passed on to the youth that is expected to take over the reins of power.

Also, he is increasingly worried about the state of Zairian agriculture which has been given priority treatment during the Second Republic. "I realize that it has not yet achieved the desired results since we still continue to import rice, maize, sugar, and meat. It is my daily preoccupation," he asserted.

This presidential remark is a subtle one because he realized during his visit to the upper Zaire region that the farmers there have responded massively to his call and that their handicap resides in the fact that their products cannot be transported easily to the needy consumer areas or to the southern part of the country.

The bottleneck in the system is therefore the means of transportation. The guide then disclosed that during the next 7-year term of office, this thorny problem of transportation and road infrastructure will be solved.

Answering the interviewer who expressed concern over the low salaries of cadres, and school teachers in particular, the head of state gave details on the implementation of the current budget, in particular the austerity constraints that the Executive Council has imposed on itself. Half of the 20 billion zaire budget is being used to reduce the foreign debt. On this issue, the head of state disclosed that out of Zaire's $5.1 billion debt, 300 million has already been paid to date. Zaire's partners and international financial institutions admit that this represents a huge effort. Out of the 10 billion zaire difference, 5 billion has been allocated to the civil service, with a remainder of only 5 billion for the development of a big country like Zaire. This is not enough.

In fact, no Zairian cadre, including teachers, is satisfied with his pay. For example, the president of the Republic disclosed that even the first state commissioner, Citizen Kengo wa Dondo, has complained to him that his salary is not enough, yet everyone thinks he is well to do. A Zairian teacher is not a Belgian or French teacher. [passage indistinct]

The 15-month stabilization program established with the IMF will expire in December and contrary to expectations this yielded positive results. A standard credit program different from the current one will be set up for next year.

As for his opinion on the lost sons asking for fatherly forgiveness, the head of state recalled that he has always granted his pardon to all repentants. Those who are sincere in their desire to join the great MPR family will always be welcome, even if not welcomed personally by me, he added.

Will he choose an heir apparent? That would be against the Constitution which provides in its regulations on the issue the modalities for the succession in case of vacancy. Answering a journalist who referred to what happened in Guinea, after the death of Sekou Toure, the guide said that it could not happen in Zaire because each Zairean soldier is a full member of the MPR.

The militant soldier brandishes his gun in his right hand and the party torch in his left. The developments in Guinea should not be compared to the situation in Zaire. It would be treason to act as in Guinea.

When questioned on the league of black African states, Field Marshal Mobutu said that all sub-Saharan African countries should be grouped within a specific organization as the northern states of the continent have done within the Arab League. Each group would discuss its own problem. The OAU would not be suppressed but would become a consulting organ on questions common to the two groups. On this issue, he said that his idea has some support from his collegues, meaning that he has expressed in words what they have been thinking. Dakar's reluctance to subscribe to the idea of grouping all black nations within a consultative organization came as a surprise because Leopold Sedar Senghor, the country's first head of state, is the father of negritude. He expressed his growing concern about the OAU's future.

On the Chadian issue, he confirmed Zaire's efforts in favor of the success of the Brazzaville roundtable conference on national reconciliation in Chad. Zaire has a strong contingent of men and materiel in that country and also trains governmental troops there. About 1,000 Chadian soldiers have been training for 5 months as a commando group in the equator region. These soldiers will finish their training and return home in 3 months. Then the executive council will withdraw part of its contingent from Chad.

Marshal Mobutu arrived in Kinshasa on board his C-130 command late in the afternoon.

Further on Mobutu Comments

AB011445 Paris AFP in English 1202 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Excerpt] Mbandaka, Zaire, Aug 1 (AFP) — President Mobutu Sese Seko has said that he would not become president for life following weekend elections in which he was the only candidate.

Speaking at a press conference yesterday in Mbandaka, 500 kilometers (300 miles) northeast of Kinshasa, Marshal Mobutu also said he would not choose his own successor. "You would call me a dictator, something you have the habit of doing anyway," he told the journalists. Referring to the two-day presidential polls last weekend, in which voters turned in green ballots signifying support for the current head of state or red slips to show their opposition, Marshal Mobutu stressed that the exercise was "a vote and not a plebiscite." But he added that for the Zairean people, elections meant disorder and that an overall negative vote in last week's poll would be seen as a "provocation" in some parts of the country. The final results of the election will be announced on Tuesday.

He also said the absence of red ballots in several voting stations visited by reporters was the result of an "excess of enthusiasm" and not due to official orders. Marshal Mobutu, who came to power in 1965 and was elected to two seven-year presidential terms beginning in 1970, said his priority during his past term was economic recovery and the improvement of government finances. He said his main focus in he coming mandate would be on agriculture. as an example of the work to be done in this sector, he said that while Zaire was importing rice, corn, meat and other basics, Zairian rice was rotting in the north of the country because of transport problems.

Questioned on the low level of income of the average Zairian, Marshal Mobutu admitted that poverty was a continuing problem and said, "even my prime minister (Kengo wa Dondo) has complained on two occasions about not earning enough." "Personally, I don't have any problems thanks to my salary as head of state," he added.

AZAP Views Military Cooperation With PRC

AB010945 Kinshasa AZAP in French 0736 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Excerpts] Kinshasa, 31 Jul (AZAP) — The Chinese People's Liberation Army [PLA] will celebrate on Wednesday the 57th anniversary of its creation on 1 August 1927 under the auspices of the Chinese Communist Party.

China and Zaire maintain excellent cooperation in the military field. This cooperation, which began in 1979, has already achieved tangible results. During Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang's visit to Zaire in January 1983, Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko, founding chairman of the MPR, president of the Republic, and commander in chief of the Zairian Armed Forces, affirmed in his official speech that in the military field the Chinese instructors have demonstrated their perfect knowledge of the military profession by helping to train a commando brigade in Kisangani which has now become a unit capable of intervening effectively at any time to defend the nation's territorial integrity.

For his part, General Zhang — who in November 1983 undertook a 7-day mission of appraisal within the framework of the Chinese-Zairian military cooperation — also expressed complete satisfaction about the cooperation between both countries in the common struggle to safeguard world peace. Gen Zhang visited the Chinese technical assistance personnel working in Kisangani where the elements of the 41st Shock Commando Brigade were trained as well as the personnel repairing tanks and warships in Mbanza Ngungu and Boma respectively. He also held discussions with the Zairian military authorities.

On the occasion of the 57th anniversary of the PLA, Niu Kiqiu, military attache at the Chinese Embassy in Zaire, praised the very diversified cooperation existing between China and Zaire in many fields including the military cooperation which, he hoped, will be further strengthened.

BENIN

Kerekou Sworn in as President 1 August

AB012100 Cotonou Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Excerpt] Comrade Mathieu Kerekou was sworn in this afternoon in Cotonou as president of the Republic. The solemn occasion, which marked the beginning of the second legislature of the Revolutionary National Assembly, was attended by thousands and thousands of militants of the revolution. The militants wanted to honor the event and express support to the man who will once again lead the destiny of the nation for another 5 years.

GHANA

Cape Verde President Stops Over En Route From Angola

AB011805 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] The president of Cape Verde, Aristides Pereira, stopped over in Accra this morning on his way home after a visit to Angola. President Pereira is accompanied by his foreign minister, Commandant Silvino da Luz, and his minister of communications, Dr Corsino Fortes [title as heard]. The Angolan foreign minister, Paulo Jorge, is also on the plane. Among those who welcomed President Pereira on his arrival were the acting chairman of the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council], Mr Justice D.F. Annan; the special adviser to the PNDC, Captain Kojo Tsikata; the PNDC coordinating secretary, P.V. Obeng; and the secretary for information, Miss Joyce Aryee.

Addressing a news conference soon after arrival, President Pereira highly commended the government and people of Ghana for their exemplary contribution to the struggle for the independence of African countries and the fight for economic emancipation of the continent. He recalled Ghana's role in championing the cause of the African struggle and stressed that now that the continent is virtually independent in its totality, other African countries still look to Ghana to continue to be in the lead for the struggle for economic liberation. President Pereira said the Cape Verde Islands, like some other African countries, is now seriously afflicted by drought and that his government is doing its best to overcome such natural calamity. He said Cape Verde looks to friendly countries like Ghana for help in its task of overcoming the ravages of drought. He stressed that Ghana and Cape Verde will continue in their friendly ties and contribute their quota to the cause of African unity.

Rawlings Pays Official Visit to Guyana

For CANA reportage on the official visit to Guyana by Flight Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings, Chairman of the Provisional National Defense Council, including the joint communique issued at the end of the discussions with Guyanese President Forbes Burnham, see the Guyana section of the 31 July Latin America *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

GUINEA

Briefs

FRG Envoy Departs — Dr Bernhard Zimmerman, FRG ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary, yesterday went to bid farewell to head of state Colonel Lansana Conte. The audience took place in the presence of Prime Minister Diarra Traore, Mines and Geology Minister Jean Traore, and Lieutenant Abdoulrahman Diallo, member of the Military Committee for National Redress, ambassador, and chief of state protocol. [Excerpt] [Conakry Domestic Service in French 0645 GMT 1 Aug 84 AB]

GUINEA-BISSAU

Drought Agency To Consider Country's Membership

AB011540 Dakar PANA in French 1212 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Excerpt] Bissau, 1 August (ANG/PANA) — A delegation of the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahal, ICDCS, is now visiting Bissau. The mission of the delegation — which arrived last Monday and is led by Latyr Ndiaye, Senegal's director general of agricultural production — is to analyze Guinea-Bissau's climatic, hydrological, economic, and administrative situation with a view to admitting it into the ICDCS.

Already on Monday, the ICDCS commission held a meeting with a delegation of Guinea-Bissau experts led by Alexandre Nunes Correia, member of the Central Committee of the PAIGC [African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde] and minister of health, who warmly spoke in favor of his country's membership in the ICDCS.

LIBERIA

Doe Asks Politically-Affiliated Ministers To Resign

AB011631 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1600 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] The head of state, Commander in Chief Dr Samuel Kanyon Doe, has called on all cabinet ministers who may want to form political parties or associate with parties to resign their posts within 1 week. Dr Doe made the announcement today at a cabinet meeting in which he briefed members on recent political decisions in the country.

The head of state said the privilege to resign so as to form or associate with political parties also extends to deputy and assistant ministers as well as other officials of government who may want to choose their own political career. The commander in chief stressed the need for honesty and sincerety in the months ahead. Dr Doe also reemphasized that anyone causing confusion and disruption in the society will be detained until a civilian government is inducted into office.

The head of state also used the occasion to introduce the vice president of the Interim National Assembly to the cabinet. Dr Harry Moniba expressed appreciation to the Liberian leader for his preferment and expressed his commitment to the goals and aspirations of Dr Doe and the Government of the Republic of Liberia.

Announces New Party
AB011950 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Excerpts] Last week the head of state [Samuel Doe] accepted requests from chiefs and elders, the marketing association, and Grand Kru County. He also referred to the overwhelming support given him by the Liberian Army. In addition to explaining the reason for accepting the request for running for president, the head of state also formally announced to the cabinet the name of his party. He said the party will be called the National Democratic Party of Liberia, but said details of the formation will be announced later.

NIGER

Kountche Returns From Pilgrimage to Saudi Arabia
AB011000 Niamey Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] The head of state returned to Niamey yesterday afternoon from Saudi Arabia. General Seyni Kountche had gone to the holy place of Islam where he prayed to the Almighty Allah to bless and be merciful on our country. He also offered prayers for abundant rains this year. It will be noted that President Seyni Kountche was welcomed upon his return to Niamey by Mamane Oumarou, chairman of the National Council for Development, and Lieutenant Ali (Shebou), the Army chief of staff of the Niger Armed Forces. He was later greeted by the prime minister, Mr Hamid Algabit; the great chancellor of the national orders, General Duppuis Henri Yacouba; members of the government; the ambassadors of Saudi Arabia and France; as well as several civilian and military officials.

NIGERIA

FMG To Send New Deputy High Commissioner to Britain
AB011545 Paris AFP in English 1533 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Excerpt] Lagos, Aug 1 (AFP) — Nigeria is sending a new deputy high commissioner to take care of its interests in Britain, the government-owned *DAILY TIMES* newspaper said today, quoting Nigerian External Affairs Minister Ibrahim Gambari. The appointment of the official, named as Ibrahim Kerfi, was a "regular posting," Mr Gambari was quoted as saying.

NAN: Britain Considering Sending Envoy for Talks
AB011601 Lagos NAN in English 1545 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Excerpt] London, Aug 1 (NAN) — Britain is considering the possibility of sending an envoy to Nigeria to discuss ways of resolving the strained relations between the countries, British diplomatic sources said in London today.

The sources told the Western Europe correspondent of the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) that other moves to ease tensions between the two countries were also under consideration. They added that a direct and personal contact with the head of state, Maj Gen Muhammadu Buhari, would provide an opportunity to mend fences.

TIMES Calls for Action in Requesting Extraditions
AB011010 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 1 Aug 84

[From the press review]

[Text] The *DAILY TIMES* expresses concern over the delay in making formal requests for the extradition of Umaru Dikko and other fugitives abroad. The paper is of the view that special attention should have been given to their cases in view of the enormous economic crimes the fugitives committed. The *TIMES* therefore urges the government to speed up action on their cases.

Idiagbon Tells U.S. Envoy FMG Not Prepared To Devalue
AB010948 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] The Federal Military Government [FMG] says it is not prepared to devalue the naira in its efforts to revive the country's economy. The chief of staff, Supreme Headquarters, Brigadier Tunde Idiagbon, made the assertion yesterday while exchanging views with the U.S. ambassador to Nigeria, Mr Thomas Smith. Brig Idiagbon said that the Federal Government was determined to revamp the economy without driving the nation into further complications. The chief of staff said that there was no limit to devaluation and made it clear that the country's economy would not be mortgaged in the on-going negotiations with the IMF. He urged the American envoy to intimate the Reagan administration on the current mood of Nigerians.

In his response, the U.S. ambassador expressed his country's preparedness to assist the FMG in stabilizing Nigeria's economy. Mr Smith also stated that the U.S. Government will cooperate with the Federal Government on the issue of Nigerian fugitives in America.

Cameroon's Muna Arrives, To Meet With Buhari

AB011620 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] The speaker of Cameroon's National Assembly, Solomon Tandeng Muna, arrived in Lagos today on a 1-day official visit to Nigeria. Mr Muna was received at the Murtala Muhammad Airport by the minister of external affairs, Dr Ibrahim Gambari. He is expected to hold discussions with the head of state, Major General Muhammadu Buhari.

Told Country Not Destabilization Base

AB020845 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 2 Aug 84

[Text] The Federal Military Government has said that no foreign interests can use Nigeria as a base to foment trouble in neighboring African countries.

The head of state, Major General Muhammadu Buhari, made this point clear when he received a delegation from President Paul Biya of Cameroon yesterday at Dodan Barracks. Gen Buhari said that as a matter of policy, Nigeria would want to see her neighbors politically and economically strong. This, the head of state explained, was because any instability in a neighboring country was likely to affect Nigeria.

The leader of the delegation, Mr Solomon Tandeng Muna, who is the president of the National Assembly of Cameroon, had earlier delivered a special message from the Cameroonian leader to Gen Buhari. In the message, President Biya explained current events in Cameroon and assured Nigeria of his government's support at all times. The Cameroonian leader also called for the strengthening of relations between the two countries.

Foreign Minister Reiterates Support for Zimbabwe

AB010900 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] Nigeria has reiterated her commitment and support for the progress of Zimbabwe. The minister of external affairs, Dr Ibrahim Gambari, made this known while receiving the Zimbabwean high commissioner to Nigeria, Mr Kesley D. (Siaskon) in his office yesterday. He said that it was in realization of this objective that the Supreme Military Council accepted the invitation to attend the congress of the ruling ZANU Party in Harare. Mr (Siaskon) expressed his country's appreciation for Nigeria's continued support adding that 10 million naira assistance to Zimbabwe for reconstruction and training were testimonies of her goodwill. He noted that the recent visit by the minister of external affairs to Frontline States was a morale booster for liberation movements in the region. During their talks, Dr Gambari and the Zimbabwean high commissioner reviewed the situation in southern Africa.

PUNCH Dissatisfied With Doe's Role in Liberia

AB011011 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 1 Aug 84

[From the press review]

[Text] The *PUNCH* expresses dissatisfaction over the role the Liberian head of state is playing in that country's preparation for a return to civil rule. It points out that the recent development in Liberia has shown conclusively that General Samuel Doe has already formalized arrangement to become life president. The *PUNCH* advises that if General Doe is interested in ruling the country as a civilian he should quit the Army and contest like other citizens.

SENEGAL

Mauritanian Minister Brings Message From Haydala

AB011625 Dakar Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] Colonel Cheikh Ould Boyda, the minister of justice and Islamic affairs of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, arrived in Dakar yesterday. He was welcomed by Doudou N'Doye, his Senegalee counterpart. Colonel Ould Boyda brought a personal message from Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala, the Mauritanian head of state, to President Abdou Diouf.

TOGO

Cimao Chairman Meets With Eyadema, Comments

AB011650 Lome Domestic Service in French 1230 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Excerpts] The president of the Republic, General Gnassingbe Eyadema, this morning received the Ivorian minister of mines, Mr Gui Dibo, who is also the chairman of the board of directors of the Cement Company of West Africa [Cimao]. Discussions with the head of state centered on the life of this cement complex jointly owned by Togo, Ivory Coast, and Ghana. At the end of his audience, the Ivorian minister of mines told reporters that he received advice from President Eyadema for the smooth running of Cimao.

[Begin Gui Dibo recording] I had the honor of being received by the president of the Republic this morning following the Cimao board meeting, which has just ended. I reported to the president on the deliberations of the meeting and also on the future of the Cimao. The president for his part gave the necessary advice for the smooth running of the company as he is well informed on the difficulties facing the Cimao, difficulties that can be attributed to the world economic crisis.

At the board meeting in April, we decided to stop operations at Cimao for 3 months due to insufficient power supply. We have just realized that we cannot resume operations for another 2 months or more when the water level at the hydroelectric dams will have risen to provide enough electricity for the proper functioning of the machines. [end recording]

Eyadema Receives WARDA Delegation, Vieira Message

AB011630 Lome Domestic Service in French 1230 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Excerpt] The head of state this morning received a delegation of the West Africa Rice Development Association [WARDA], led by Carlos Correia, minister of state in charge of rural development and fisheries of Guinea-Bissau [title as heard]. He delivered a message from the Guinea-Bissau leader, Brigadier General Joao Vieira, to President Eyadema. The leader of the delegation disclosed that the message concerned the activities of this association for rice development.

UPPER VOLTA

Paris Reports Upper Volta To Change Name, Flag

LD011339 Paris International Service in French 1245 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Excerpt] Upper Volta is to change its name, flag, and national anthem from 4 August, the anniversary of the latest coup d'etat. Upper Volta will be called (Bourkina Fasso) which means the country of upright men. This is an exclusive for Radio France International. Our special correspondent (Noelle Veline) will give us all the details on this measure in a moment. This measure is designed to assert the new identity of the young revolutionaries in power.

We begin with an exclusive for Radio France International. (Bourkina Fasso) in thus the new name of Upper Volta, an African name for a country which wants to Africanize itself further since its latest revolution, that is since the coup d'etat of 4 August 1983 and the coming to power of Captain Thomas Sankara. Festivities have been organized in Ouagadougou since Monday in preparation for the marking of the anniversary of this taking of power. We have thus just learned exclusively the latest decisions of the government which will be announced officially on 4 August — the change in the country's name which will be accompanied by a change of flag and national anthem.

Sankara Chairs 1 August Cabinet Meeting

AB011455 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1330 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] On the eve of the first anniversary of the revolution, the first cabinet meeting for the month of August 1984, which was held under the chairmanship of Captain Thomas Sankara, chairman of the National Council of the Revolution and head of state, examined in particular the participation of members of the revolutionary government in all the activities that will be commemorating this great historical event. The members of government must in fact share the joy and gladness of the people during all the activities that will commemorate the first anniversary of the revolution. The cabinet meeting of 1 August 1984 once more appeals for vigilance to ensure the success of all the commemorative activities. Details on the cabinet meeting will be given in subsequent casts. Fatherland or death, we will win!

Sankara Speech, Parade To Mark 4 Aug Celebrations

AB010845 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French 0630 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Excerpts] For 2 days now the people of Upper Volta have been celebrating the first anniversary of the people's democratic revolution. The festivities will continue until 5 August.

In Ouagadougou, the occasion is being celebrated with pomp and pageantry. Thus more than 50 delegates from over 30 countries from Africa, America, Asia, and Europe, including France, as well as representatives from the SDAR, SWAPO, PLO, and ANC are expected in the Upper Voltan capital. Finally, the climax of the festivities will be the 4 August parade which will be preceeded by a speech by President Thomas Sankara on 3 August.

Libyan Delegation Delivers Equipment

AB011205 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 0630 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Excerpt] Yesterday evening a consignment of goods was presented to the Upper Voltan Government at the Presidential Palace on behalf of the Libyan Government. The Libyan delegation, which has come to attend the 4 August festivities, presented large consignments of supplies and sound equipment to our country. Receiving the gift, the permanent under secretary to the Presidency, who presided over the ceremony, spoke about the full significance of this gesture to our revolution which has the respect of the sovereignty of states as one of its basic principles. Here is the statement made by Comrade Isaac Ouedraogo:

[Begin Ouedraogo recording] Comrades, on officially receiving this consignment of equipment and goods, the militant people of Upper Volta, the National Council of the Revolution, and its revolutionary government have the great pleasure to express their sincere thanks and show their profound gratitude to the brotherly people of Libya and to their leader. We are determined to henceforth rely on our own strength, but we appreciate all assistance when this assistance respects our independence and dignity. A few days before the first anniversary of our democratic and popular revolution, which is a victory over international imperialism and its local agents, we reaffirm this principle that our revolution is neither an imported nor an exportable product. Finally, Your Excellency and Comrades, kindly convey our hearty thanks and express our profound gratitude to the Libyan people and to its leader President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. [end recording]

Ghanaian, Other Groups Arrive

AB012110 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] The advance batch of Ghana's delegation to the first anniversary celebration of the Upper Volta revolution has arrived in Ouagadougou. The anniversary day is 4 August. The delegation includes Provisional National Defense Council secretaries, representatives of People's Defense Committees, the Trades Union Congress, and the 31st December Women's Movement. The military is also represented by a large team led by Colonel Mensah Woode, commander of support services.

In connection with the celebration, workers in Ouagadougou have been granted a half-day holiday for the 5-day period to enable them to participate in the anniversary activities.

Other countries with representatives already in Ouagadougou include Algeria, Libya, Benin, China, Ivory Coast, the DPRK, and the Congo. According to our correspondent in Ouagadougou, all is set for the anniversary celebration.

In the capital, the people have been engaged in a massive clean-up exercise, including the whitewashing of their homes and most of the trees along the major streets. In all these, members of the Committees [for the Defense] of the Revolution are playing major roles. Our correspondent says, as part of the celebrations, games like football and cultural displays will involve many countries, including Ghana. In the football competition, Ghana is being represented by Accra Hearts of Oak, and in their first match with Algeria, the score was one all.

The first anniversary marks the launching of the 4 August revolution led by Captain Thomas Sankara, which overthrew the regime of Jean-Baptiste Ouedraogo.

Communique on Sankara Visit to Yugoslavia

For the TANJUG version of the communique on the visit to Yugoslavia of Captain Thomas Sankara, president of the National Council of the Revolution, including his talks with SFRY President Veselin Djuranovic, see the Yugoslavia section of the 1 August Eastern Europe *DAILY REPORT*.

ANGOLA

DPRK Economic Minister Arrives for Talks

MB011257 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] The Angolan-DPRK joint economic commission will meet in its first session in Luanda today under the chairmanship of its respective chairmen: Evaristo Kimba, the minister of agriculture, and Chong Song-nam, the Korean minister of external economic affairs. The Korean official arrived in Angola yesterday morning and was scheduled yesterday afternoon to meet Evaristo Domingos Kimba, the minister of agriculture, and Carlos Fernandes, the state secretary for cooperation. During his stay in Angola, Chong Song-nam is also expected to meet Paulo Jorge, the minister of foreign relations; Emilio Guerra, the minister of fisheries; Pedro de Castro van Dunem, Loi, the minister of energy and petroleum; Jorge Flora, the minister of construction; and Ismael Martins, the minister of foreign trade. At the end of talks on 4 August, a protocol agreement is expected to be signed.

Cape Verde President Leaves After Visit

MB011503 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Excerpt] Aristides Pereira, secretary general of the African Party for the Independence of Cape Verde and president of the Republic of Cape Verde, left the country this morning after an approximately 48-hour visit. In Angola, the Cape Verdian head of state held talks with President Jose Eduardo dos Santos in conjunction with of the official talks between the two countries, which opened the day before yesterday on the arrival of Aristides Pereira in Luanda. No communique was issued at the end of the talks between Angola and Cape Verde.

Defense Force Kills 2,828 'Bandits' in 6 Months

MB011526 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] A total of 2,828 bandits were annihilated by the defense and security forces in operations launched in the first 6 months of this year in several provinces of Angola.

According to a military source contacted by ANGOP, during the same period about 12,000 civilians held against their will were released from the yoke of the UNITA puppets. Some 2,000 head of cattle stolen from the peasants were retrieved and large quantities of war materiel captured.

In a mopping-up operation launched on 25 July, the Armed Forces killed 10 bandits near Lago Dilolo in Moxico Province.

These operations were within the context of the continuous offensive of the national Army against groups which had infiltrated the country from outside with the mission of destabilizing the country economically and politically, thus endangering the Angolan revolution and national independence.

UNITA Claims Reponsibility for Sinking Vessel

MB011630 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] The UNITA movement in Angola says its forces have sunk a Soviet ship in Luanda harbor. The commandos have also damaged a Cuban vessel. In a communique delivered to the news media in Lisbon, UNITA says the Cuban ship was carrying military materiel. An earlier report quoted a UNITA spokesman in the United States as saying the Soviet ship was also carrying military materiel and not food as claimed.

The ANGOLAN NEWS AGENCY said yesterday that two ships — one Angolan and the other East German — has been damaged by mines off Luanda harbor on Sunday night to create panic and to disrupt the distribution of food supplies. In its Lisbon communique, UNITA says it has spread its fight against the MPLA governemnt from Cuando-Cubango in southern Angola to the northern enclave of Cabinda as well as to the capital of Luanda itself.

UNITA claimed yesterday that it had won control of the Cazombo area of eastern Angola, after a 4-month battle in which there were substantial losses on both sides.

BOTSWANA

Masire Opens Gaborone International Trade Fair

MB011719 Gaborone Domestic Service in English 1125 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] The president, Dr Quett Masire, has said that the pace of progress in the industrial sector has been significant with a 35-percent growth in manufacturing units. Dr Masire was opening the 16th Gaborone International Trade Fair this morning, which is being held against a background of devastating drought now in its 3d consecutive year.

The president said that employment creation had improved significantly although the number of job seekers continued to outpace the number of jobs available in the market. He said that it was for this reason that the government places emphasis on investing more in economically productive sectors of the economy.

He warned that unless a country had a viable economic base, it could not hope to have goods and services to exchange with other countries. Dr Masire said that the Gaborone International Trade Fair was an opportunity for the country to exhibit the products it could offer to the rest of the world and an opportunity to see what the rest of the world could offer Botswana. Eight countries are participating in this year's Gaborone international fair. He said that a trade fair such as this was an example of international partnership.

The president also called on the people to be proud of the country's achievements although Botswana started from scratch at independence. He said unlike other countries, which inherited some development infrastructure and social services, Botswana had no discernible natural resources other than cattle at the time

of independence. Botswana endured a long period of economic neglect and, like other majority-ruled countries of southern Africa, its economy was designed to depend on or to feed that of South Africa. However, he said, soon after independence large deposits of diamonds were discovered which enabled the provision of a network of roads and communications, schools, hospitals, and other services.

On economic relations with South Africa, Dr Masire said that Botswana would continue to welcome South African participation at the international trade fair because the lessening of economic dependence on South Africa did not mean a breach of economic relations. The president said that this was not contrary to the ideals of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference [SADCC], which seeks to reduce economic dependence on South Africa and to promote economic coordination among the majority-ruled states of southern Africa. Dr Masire said that as SADCC strives to lessen the domination of its member countries' economies by South Africa, it expects trade and economic relations to expand. He said that SADCC was not a counterlaager, but a coordinating conference for the expansion of economic relations on a multilateral basis.

He further said that Botswana was now less dependent on South Africa than it was in 1966 or 1974, and yet the country imports more from South Africa than in 1974. He said this was because Botswana now imports other commodities from other sources, especially Zimbabwe, and that Botswana now exports beef to Mozambique, which was not the case in 1974. Dr Masire added that Botswana was now self-sufficient in eggs and chicken products whereas it relied entirely on South Africa 10 years ago.

Earlier, when welcoming Dr Masire to the fair, the minister of commerce and industry, Mr Nwako, said that Botswana is determined to ensure that a diversification of the country's economy would enable people to benefit from the employment creation and foreign exchange. Mr Nwako said that this year's Gaborone international fair theme is to promote business diversity because diversity is a key to future prosperity.

He said that recently his ministry had commissioned several major consultancy projects to further identify investment opportunities in Botswana. He said these would give priority to the identification of viable and diverse manufacturing businesses which citizens and foreigners could be attracted to undertake. Mr Nwako said that the financial assistance policy and other incentives were available to help people play an increasing role in Botswana business.

LESOTHO

Jonathan Holds Talks With UK Envoy Over Arms in RSA

MB011835 Maseru Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] Sources close to the prime minister's office report that the prime minister, Right Honourable Dr Leabua Jonathan, today held discussions with the British high commissioner to Lesotho, His Excellency Mr P.E. Rosling. The sources indicate that the discussions centered around Lesotho's internal security equipment which has been bought from British suppliers and is presently being held at various South African ports.

The sources also indicate that the talks were of a highly serious nature and that the high commissioner is to report to the British Government on the discussions.

MOZAMBIQUE

German Aid Workers Say MNR Has Base in Malawi

MB011730 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1707 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] Harare, Aug 1, SAPA — A recent report issued by West German medical aid workers in Mozambique claims the MNR [Mozambique National Resistance] has a new base in Malawi, according to Zimbabwe's national news agency, ZIANA.

The non-governmental aid organisation, "the Committee Cape Anamur," which began work with the Vietnamese "boat people," is composed of doctors and nurses who work on a voluntary basis in crisis areas.

In June last year, the group started to work in Tete and the Mozambique border areas.

ZIANA today quoted the committee's report as saying "the MNR bandits remain in their hideouts near the Malawian border... Malawi allows the MNR guerrillas to cross their border, and they obtain their provisions in Malawi."

Malawi had become a victim of South Africa's "destabilisation policy" the report said, according to ZIANA.

Machel Meets With Visiting Malawi Minister

MB011000 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0800 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] President Samora Machel yesterday received in private audience Chimwemwe Hara, the minister of transport and communications of Malawi. The Malawian minister was bearing a special message from President Kamuzu Banda to his Mozambican counterpart, Field Marshal Samora Machel.

Military Reports 9 'Bandits' Killed in Offensive

MB011200 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] The FPLM have shot dead 9 armed bandits and seriously injured 20 others in a recent search and destroy military offensive in Megaza, Morrumbala District, Zambezia Province. The remaining bandits fled in disarray, leaving behind a variety of war equipment. This has been revealed by an officer of the Mozambique Armed Forces, who took part in this operation.

One should recall that the FPLM dislodged a large group of armed bandits who had been commiting atrocities in that area at the end of last year. After the destruction of the bandits, our

forces launched a mopping-up operation. The more than 400 families which had abandoned the region because of the criminal bandit actions are building one of the biggest village communes in Zambezia Province.

Foreign Minister Bids Farewell to Algerian Envoy

MB011001 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0400 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] Joaquim Chissano, the minister of foreign affairs, has stressed Algeria's role in solving various problems in Mozambique. Joaquim Chissano said this yesterday in Maputo at a farewell party for Hocine Djoudi, the Algerian ambassador in our country.

Chissano also described Ambassador Hocine Djoudi's work as a driving force for cooperation between the two countries, which have for a very long time now been promoting very deep relations of friendship and solidarity. Mozambique and Algeria cooperate in the fields of professional training, forest resources and timber exploitation, information, oil, gas, and cotton.

According to a Foreign Ministry source, 18 qualified Mozambican workers are expected to return home soon after completing training courses in Algeria. The main products exported by Mozambique to Algeria include tea and automobile tires.

Briefs

French Agricultural Loan — The French Government has agreed to lend Mozambique about $11 million to help boost agricultural production. The main aim of the loan is to provide goods which the peasants can buy with the money they earn from the sale of their crops. Almost half of the loan will be used to import raw materials and some finished goods for Mozambican factories which manufacture essential goods for agricultural marketing. The remainder of the loan will buy goods and means of transport for the cotton and marketing campaign in Nampula and Gaza Provinces by supplying seeds, (?supplements), and means of transport for their marketing. The loan has favorable terms for Mozambique and is repayable over 15 years. France has also agreed to a gift of 5,000 tons of wheat. [Text] [Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1100 GMT 31 Jul 84 MB]

NAMIBIA

Radio Freedom on Cape Verde Talks on Namibia

EA010040 Addis Ababa Radio Freedom in English to South Africa 1930 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Station commentary: "On the Failure of the Cape Verde Talks Last Week"]

[Text] Compatriots: It is now clear to everyone that the failure of the talks between SWAPO and the secessionist Boer regime which were held last week in Cape Verde was caused by the intransigent nature of the racists.

In a communique issued yesterday in the Angolan capital, Luanda, SWAPO explained that Van Niekerk's insistence on linking Namibia's independence with the foreign issue of the withdrawal of the Cuban internationalist troops from Angola and Pretoria's refusal to implement Resolution No 435 were the main and only causes for the breakdown of the talks.

Following their sabotage of the talks, the racists then tried to fool the world, shouting at the tops of their voices, saying that SWAPO rejected an offer for a cease-fire. What cease-fire was the Boers talking about? We shall remember that Pretoria's offer meant that SWAPO should lay down arms before anything could be done, even before the commitment on the part of the occupationists that the cease-fire will immediately lead to the implementation of the Resolution 435. In other words, Van Niekerk's offer meant that SWAPO should disarm itself and then place the future of the Namibian people at the mercy of the colonizers. What Van Niekerk and his bosses seem to have forgotten is that SWAPO took up arms in 1966 with the sole aim of liberating Namibia. SWAPO did not embark on armed struggle so as to sign a fruitless cease-fire one day.

In fact the SWAPO president, Comrade Sam Nujoma, spelled out the organization's policies clearly during the abortive Lusaka talks last May. He said that SWAPO is prepared at any moment to sign a cease-fire with Pretoria only if that will lead to the immediate implementation of Resolution 435. In his lies last week, Van Niekerk also said that his regime does not agree with SWAPO's insistence that any independence process in Namibia should be under the supervision of the United Nations. Then who else does Van Niekerk expect to supervise the cease-fire and elections? Who at present is the rightful governor of Namibia? Is it the United Nations or the occupationist Boer regime? How on earth can such a vicious colonial country like South Africa conduct free and fair elections after countless attempts to install a puppet regime in Namibia?

If Namibian independence elections can be supervised by either Pretoria or the greedy western gang of five, (?we do not agree) that such an (?attempt) will open a free way for the (?purpose) of the so-called Multi-Party Conference to sail to victory. Why are the Boers so much afraid of elections being supervised by the United Nations? Because even racist South Africa itself is a member of the world body. It is clear, therefore, that the racists are only afraid of the impartiality of the United Nations.

In the face of such intransigence on the part of the enemy, SWAPO has no alternative but to intensify the armed liberation struggle. On the other hand, Botha's (?pass-boy) in Namibia, Willie van Niekerk, has issued threats saying if SWAPO intensifies the war, his occupationist administration will intensify its counterattacks.

What really did this racist mean with his threats? This means nothing, really, except that the barbaric activities of (?Pretoria) will be intensified, that many innocent Namibians will be butchered under the guise of searching for imaginary so-called SWAPO terrorists. These threats mean that more aggressive raids will be carried out against the neighboring states, especially the People's Republic of Angola, under the guise of attacking what Botha refers to as SWAPO bases in that region.

Is it even clearer now, why, all along, Pretoria has not completed its long overdue withdrawal from southern Angola? The racists are now nursing futile hopes that they can move the issue of withdrawal to force Angola to pressurize SWAPO to agree to their absurd offer of the cease-fire.

Compatriots, it is also important to note that this intransigence demonstrated by the Boers in Cape Verde comes at a time when this regime is being portrayed in the Western world as a peacemaker in the region and as a reformist at home. How come that an intransigent regime which is refusing to grant the Namibian people their rights to self-determination in their own country, how can such a regime grant genuine rights to the oppressed Coloreds and Indians at home? It is now clear that the so-called reform program at home, the peace initiative in southern Africa, and the cease-fire offer in occupied Namibia are all attempts by the enemy aimed at enhancing and consolidating the unpopular rule in our country. All these schemes have one purpose: that of safeguarding apartheid and prolonging its life span.

It is therefore our duty to frustrate these schemes. First of all we must crush the August 22d and 28th elections. Botha's reforms must be (?abstained) and frustrated. At the same time we must intensify our fight for all free and democratic South Africa by (?forming) the [word indistinct] ranks of Umkhonto we Sizwe and the underground ranks of the ANC. If we intensify our armed liberation struggle here at home, we shall force the regime to give up Namibia and thus contribute to the liberation of our sister people of that country.

The enemy, Fellow Countrymen, must be confronted on all fronts. Forward with the liberation struggle. Active solidarity with SWAPO and the Namibian peoples. Down with Botha's maneuvers. Forward with the liberation war.

Voice of Namibia Comments

EA311138 Addis Ababa Voice of Namibia in English 1900 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Text] We comment on the Cape Verde fiasco.

Last week yet another round of talks between the delegations of SWAPO and racist South Africa on the Namibian independence problem ended in failure. For the Namibian people and their vanguard liberation movement, SWAPO, the aim of the talks held in Cape Verde was to facilitate the signing of a cease-fire and the implementation of the UN independence plan for Namibia, a plan adopted as far back as 1978, and it suggests a cease-fire between SWAPO and racist South Africa to be followed by independence elections under the supervision and control of the UN.

However, it transpired during the Cape Verde talks that racist South Africa went to the talks to use them as a public relations exercise. The aim of the racists was to appear to the world that they were willing to leave Namibia, while in reality yielding no ground in their intransigent and preposterous position of making Namibian independence conditional to the withdrawal of the Cuban internationalist troops from Angola.

In its usual notorious fashion of twisting facts, racist South Africa was quick to blame SWAPO for the failure of the talks. The spokesman of the regime unashamedly alleged that SWAPO has refused to sign a cease-fire, while SWAPO is on record as having on several occasions reiterated its willingness to sign a cease-fire leading to the implementation of the UN independence plan for Namibia.

A SWAPO communique issued in the Angolan capital over the weekend stated categorically that it was racist South Africa and not SWAPO who turned down the offer of cease-fire and cessation of hostilities contained in the SWAPO proposal.

It will be unthinkable for SWAPO as a serious organization to turn down its own proposal. The truth is that racist South Africa with the open support of the Reagan administration sabotaged the talks by bringing in extraneous and irrelevant issues which have nothing to do with the letter and spirit of the UN independence plan for Namibia.

Moreover, this is not the first time for the racist South African regime to delay Namibian independence on flimsy pretexts. In 1981 at the Geneva talks the head of the South African delegation, [name indistinct], sabotaged the talks by stating that it was premature for the regime to sign a cease-fire with SWAPO there and then.

And yet 2 months ago in Lusaka, racist South Africa cowardly hid behind its surrogates of the self-styled Multi-Party Conference and thereby turned the Lusaka talks into yet another circus. The failure of the latest talks in the Cape Verde merely confirm SWAPO's long-standing view that the regime is not yet serious with the issue of handing over power to the oppressed but freedom-yearning people of Namibia.

All these monkey tricks are just designed to buy time while creating a false sense of momentum in the negotiating process. In view of this painful reality SWAPO urges the international community to increase visible solidarity with the Namibian people's struggle for national independence and social justice. Africa should be unanimous as it has always been in its support for the Namibian peoples' struggle under the vanguard of their sole and authentic representative, SWAPO of Namibia.

The latest (?embattling) tactics of the racist regime in Pretoria fully certify Comrade Sam Nujoma's recent call for an urgent meeting of the Security Council to consider appropriate action against the regime. On our part let there be no doubt in anyones mind: We shall intensify the armed liberation struggle in all the corners of Namibia, whatever the odds. SWAPO has resolved and remains committed to the genuine independence of Namibia. Nothing and nobody can prevent us from achieving that noble objective.

The clarion call after the Cape Verde fiasco is thus to intensify the national liberation struggle on all fronts for the speedy and unfettered independence of Namibia.

2 Killed in Landmine Blast in North of Country

MB011633 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] A father and his son have been killed in a landmine explosion 10 km east of the village of Oshandi in northern South-West Africa/Namibia. Spokesman for the South-West Africa Territory Force said the landmine was set off by a horse on which the two were riding. The names of the victims were not disclosed.

SOUTH AFRICA

Johannesburg Says Agreement With Angola in Jeopardy

MB011757 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Station commentary: "SWAPO Ignores FAPLA"]

[Text] Remarks by the administrator-general of South-West Africa, Dr Willie van Niekerk, that SWAPO is not allowing itself to be restrained from carrying out its normal terrorist activities and that this is making it difficult for the MPLA government to implement the terms of the Lusaka Accords with South Africa indicate that the agreements between South Africa and Angola are indeed in jeopardy. In terms of the agreements, South African forces were to be gradually withdrawn from southern Angola as that country's forces reestablished control over their territory and restrained SWAPO from launching attacks on South-West Africa.

However, SWAPO has done even more than stab its host country in the back. It is openly and blatantly refusing to help make the Lusaka Accords work. The result is that the Joint Monitoring Commission is stuck at N'Giva and not only does it report increased SWAPO activity in southern Angola, but UNITA's Dr Jonas Savimbi has said in an interview that his forces in the area report that SWAPO is becoming increasingly active and is regrouping its forces.

This is making it impossible for South Africa to remove its forces from southern Angola as planned, and as recently promised by Prime Minister P.W. Botha during his European tour. The situation is also proving embarrassing for the MPLA government because it illustrates both the impotence of the forces of People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola in controlling SWAPO and the fact that SWAPO simply ignored direct instructions from the MPLA.

It is, of course, a ridiculous situation that a terrorist movement turns on its hosts and benefactors in their own country and jeopardizes an agreement which the Angolan Government regards as promoting its own interests. However, this is not uncommon in countries that harbor terrorist forces. They eventually become a law unto themselves and, by their very nature, terrorists refuse to be controlled.

Meanwhile, a tricky situation confronts both South Africa and Angola because decisions must be taken on how to overcome SWAPO intransigence. Given goodwill and sincerity on both sides, the Lusaka Accords need not fall by the wayside. Certainly it wuld be a great pity if they did, particularly for the people of Angola.

Police Disperse Youths in Orange Free State

MB011548 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1458 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] Pretoria, Aug 1, SAPA — Police used tearsmoke, sjamboks and rubber bullets on several occasions this morning to disperse youths in the black township of Thabong near Helkom in the Orange Free State.

Police said four private vehicles and a lorry were destroyed by fire, several police and private vehicles and two beerhalls damaged, a third beerhall partially destroyed by fire and part of the cargo of a truck belonging to a brewery stolen.

A spokesman for the police public relations division in Pretoria, Lieutenant Colonel Vic Haynes, said about about 300 youths had gathered in the township during the course of the morning and then separated into smaller groups.

"These groups sporadically threw stones and set up road barricades. The police had to make use of tear smoke, sjamboks and/or rubber bullets on various occasions to disperse the rioters (oproeriges)," he added.

There were no reports of injuries.

Major Heyns added that the situation in the township this afternoon was "under control." There have been no arrests so far.

Mr N. Botha, director of education and training in the Orange Free State, said problems at the township's Teto High School had started on July 20. Students refused to attend classes until the authorities had met their various demands.

They wanted, among other things, a democratically-elected student council and better cooperation between students, parents and teachers. They also asked for better trained teachers and that a science teacher be appointed for the standard eight and higher classes.

A balance should be kept between the number of black and white teachers at the school, vacant teaching posts should be advertised locally and, they demanded, the school should be kept open at night and on weekends for study purposes.

Mr Botha said parents had been called together to discuss the boycotts and the temporary suspension of classes at the school.

Although matric students were to resume classes today, about 20 of them refused to return and went to the nearby Totagauta High School where they reportedly disrupted classes.

ZAMBIA

Military Seals Off Copperbelt Townships

MB020722 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 2 Aug 84

[Text] The cleanup operation on the copperbelt has spread to Mufulira. A combined force of the paramilitary, the Zambian Army, Zambian Air Force, and the Zambian national service sealed off (Kansosa) and (Koroma) townships along Kitwe road and (Zimba) Periurban. By 0800 yesterday, The Zambian Air Force helicopters were seen hovering, to the amusement of the school-going kids in Mufulira. It was not immediately known how many aliens have been rounded up in the swoop and taken to (Konviza) prison in Kitwe.

ZIMBABWE

Program, Agenda for ZANU-PF Congress Announced

MB011919 Harare Domestic Service in English 1745 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] The program and agenda for the second congress of the ZANU-PF have been released by the party's acting publicity secretary, Comrade Eddison Zvobgo. Issues to be discussed include the supremacy of the party over the government, party administration, the country's economy, the expansion and consolidation of social services, transport and communication, resettlement, as well as reforms to some laws to entrench women's rights. The party's president and prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, is expected to present to the Central Committee a report on such issues as the party's history, and a projection offuture programs. [Words indistinct] on 8 and 9 August with a debate on the Central Committee report scheduled for the afternoon of 9 August. On this date the [words indistinct] (?proposed) constitution for the party, the women, and youth league will be debated in the morning, followed by a debate on the tabling and adoption of resolutions from the provinces.

On 11 August the congress will elect new Central Committee members. Comrade Mugabe is expected to give a closing speech on 12 August, the day on which the new Central Committee members will be announced. The Central Committee will have an executive body, (?the politburo), to be composed of 16 heads of party departments, and to be responsible for the day-to-day administration of party affairs.

Government Lifts Curfew in Matabeleland South

MB011631 Harare Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] The government has lifted the curfew in Matabeleland South with immediate effect. Announcing the move to newsmen in Harare today, the minister of home affairs, Comrade Simbi Mubako, said the decision has been taken following an improvement of the security situation in the area. However, Comrade Mubako warned that the government will keep an eye on the area and will take sterner measures should there be any acts of banditry. He said a number of security forces will remain in the area to maintain peace. The minister said a number of bandits and their collaborators have been arrested since the introduction of the curfew and some of them will appear before courts soon. Comrade Mubako appealed to the people in Matabeleland South to continue working with the government in order to eliminate bandits.